

GayCommunity News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

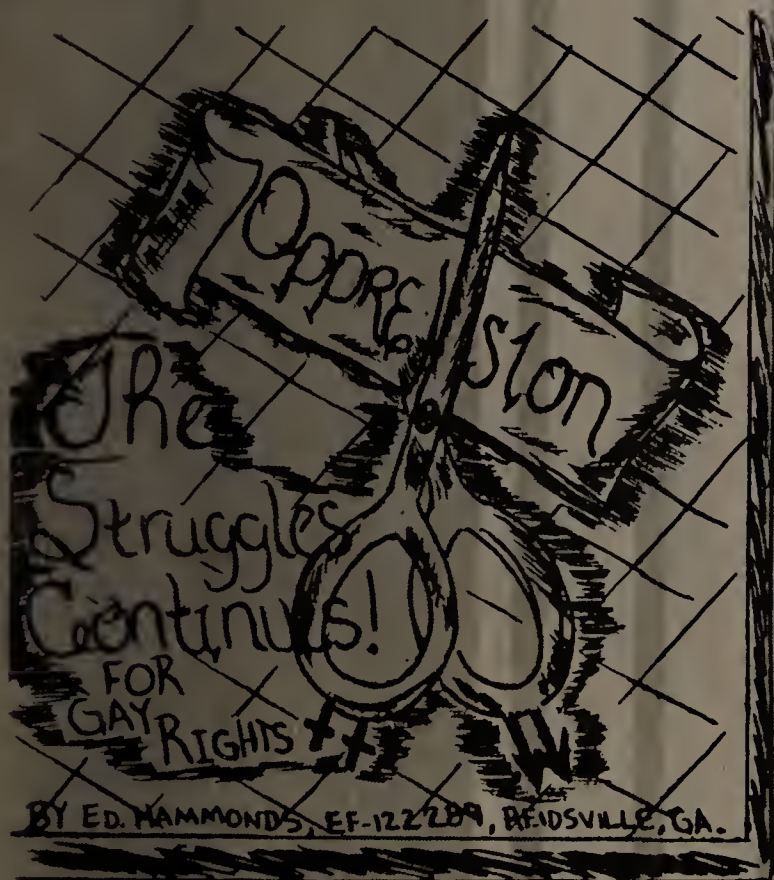
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"Dragon Flights" Poetry and Art by Lesbian and Gay Prisoners



Lesbian
Sex
Video p.11

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'Insurance companies are businesses, not a social system.'

HTLV-III Test Sought as Basis for Insurance

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

WASHINGTON, DC — The nation's largest trade organization for insurance companies will seek to overturn state laws in California and Wisconsin which currently forbid the use of HTLV-III tests in determining insurability.

On September 6, the board of directors of the American Council of Life Insurance (ACLI) issued the following statement: "The nation is only beginning to understand the potential impact of AIDS on public health. Much more remains to be learned about this devastating disease.

"At this point, however, it is clear that concern for the safety and adequacy of the nation's blood supply is justified. Insurers share that concern. As a result, insurance companies will not seek to obtain or to use the results of blood tests given by blood banks, plasma centers, or so-called 'alternative test sites,' since to do so might discourage people from donating blood.

"But insurers must be mindful of the fiduciary responsibility they have for all policy holders and use the best knowledge available in order to protect policy holder interests. Because of this, insurance companies do seek to preserve the privilege of administering medical

tests — including ones that detect antibodies to the AIDS virus — and using the results of such tests in the same way that they use other medical information which they may develop."

According to Rob Bier, spokesman for ACLI, the policy statement is the first move in the insurance industry's efforts to use HTLV-III tests in determining an individual's insurability. Currently California and Wisconsin have laws prohibiting such use of the tests; Florida has a similar law that protects the confidentiality of tests taken in a state of emergency as declared by the state commissioner of health.

The statement was formulated in reaction to a more detailed position paper currently being drafted by ACLI's legislative committee. That paper, portions of which were leaked in August, expresses the concern that people who test positive for HTLV-III antibody may apply for large amounts of life and health insurance, and that should these new policy holders go on to develop AIDS, the company issuing the insurance would have to pay prohibitive benefits for which inadequate premiums had been collected.

The question of the responsibility of insurance companies to people with AIDS gained national attention on August 15, when the Associated Press carried a story alleging that the Nationwide Insurance Company would be screening all male insurance applicants in New York, New Jersey, California, and Florida for homosexuality, and thus, presumably for AIDS. On August 16, Nationwide issued a statement denying first, that the company inquired into an applicant's sexual orientation; second, that it refused

to insure people on the basis of sexual orientation; and third, that it had any special screening process for any particular state or group of individuals.

The Nationwide statement went on to say that the company does 'deny insurance to applicants that are uninsurable, when they already have life threatening illness or disability. Providing insurance in such instances would make as much sense as accepting a fire insurance application for a building already on fire.'

Both Nationwide and ACLI consider a person who is HTLV-III positive uninsurable. Steve Rish, Vice-President for Individual Life and Health Operation for Nationwide, told GCN that if as few as five percent of HTLV-III positive people went on to develop full blown AIDS, it would still be an uninsurable risk. Rish said that it is Nationwide's position that any test available for clinical medicine should also be made available in determining in-

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U.S. New Right Linked to New Zealand Homophobes

By Stephanie Poggi

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — The campaign to block passage of the Homosexual Law Reform Bill here is continuing to receive significant support, and perhaps, direction, from the U.S. New Right. The law reform bill would decriminalize homosexuality and protect lesbians and gay men under the New Zealand Human Rights Act. (See GCN, Vol. 13,

No. 6)

According to Alison J. Laurie of the Gay Task Force of New Zealand, U.S. ultra-conservatives and members of the religious right are heavily involved in efforts to quash the gay rights bill. Recently, as hearings on the bill continued before the new Justice and Law Reform Select Committee, a U.S. anti-gay activist was even allowed to testify before that body on the defects of the bill. Louis Sheldon, founder of California Coalition for Traditional Values, leader of the Christians for Reagan, and affiliated with the Religious Round Table (a pro-"defense" Christian lobby), appeared before the select committee during a visit to New Zealand in August.

Laurie told GCN that Sheldon relied heavily on the anti-gay "Cameronesque" publication, *Midnight Alarm* to support his points in opposition to the bill. Sheldon has suggested among other things that people with AIDS be relegated to "leper" camps. He is expected to return to New Zealand at the end of this month to "fine-tune the lobbying [against the bill]," said Laurie.

Another recent visitor to New Zealand was John Swan, an advertising executive for the Archdiocese of New York. According to Laurie, Swan was busy advising the "Coalition of Concerned Citizens," which has organized in opposition to the bill, on advertising techniques for their position. Laurie noted that the anti-abortion National Right to Life is among Swan's other clients, and that he numbers the defeat of the Houston gay rights ordinance this year as one of his triumphs. Laurie also said there is evidence that Swan's anti-lesbian and -gay activity "goes back as far as Dade County."

The Salvation Army (a branch of the organization which in New York refused to comply with the mayor's Executive Order 50 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation) has been circulating a petition to defeat the Homosexual Law Reform Bill. The Salvation Army has also said that gay men and lesbians should be dragged before the courts and should receive "treatment."

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Weakened bill goes on to pass

Providence City Council Kills Gay Rights Clause

By Mark O'Malley

PROVIDENCE — After an evening of political posturing and maneuvering, the Providence City Council voted on September 5 to delete all reference to sexual orientation from a general anti-discrimination ordinance.

Debate on the sexual orientation clause began when its chief opponent, Democratic Majority Leader and Councilor Thomas Glavin, introduced an amendment to delete the sexual orientation clause from the ordinance. "I do not believe that we as a legislative body should be legislating a type of behavior," he said. Although the ordinance would have also prohibited discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, marital status, handicapped status, age, or country of ancestral origin, the evening's debate focused entirely on the sexual orientation provision.

Opponents of the ordinance emphasized religious and "moral" principles as the basis of their opposition. "Above all, I am a Christian," proclaimed Josephine DiRuzzo, her voice cracking with emotion. DiRuzzo defended those who might wish to discriminate against lesbians and gay men. "Don't they [the potential discriminators] have rights? Where are their rights?" she demanded.

Significantly, the city's two Black city councilors both supported the sexual orientation clause. One of them, Councilor Thomas O'Connor, said, "I am convinced this is an issue of

discrimination, and I am opposed to discrimination in any form." He later added, "I submit that the people who are arguing against sexual orientation have a greater agenda." This may have been a reference to Glavin's opposition to a 1979 anti-discrimination ordinance without a sexual orientation clause.

However, O'Connor had publicly announced he would vote against the sexual orientation provision if that was necessary to ensure some sort of anti-discrimination ordinance for his constituents of color.

Glavin's amendment to delete sexual orientation failed 7-7, with O'Connor joining supporters of the sexual orientation provision. Republican Councilor Malcolm Farmer III then submitted an amendment to salvage the sexual orientation clause by exempting religious institutions and owner-occupied housing. When this amendment failed 7-7, Glavin got up and walked around the city council chambers, whispering in the ears of O'Connor and opponents of the sexual orientation clause. In what appeared to be a pre-arranged deal, O'Connor reintroduced the amendment deleting sexual orientation, which then passed the council 8-6.

The weakened anti-discrimination ordinance passed 12-0. Councilors Herman Pitts, a white Republican, and Lloyd Griffin, a Black Democrat who had supported the sexual orientation

clause, both refused to vote for the weakened bill.

While the original ordinance, including protection for lesbians and gay men, received unanimous approval from the council on August 1, (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 6) the sexual orientation clause quickly generated sharp public controversy. According to local law, the city council must vote for an ordinance twice before it becomes law. Within a week of the first passage of the ordinance, the city's only daily newspaper, the *Providence Journal*, published an editorial opposing the ordinance, arguing that institutions and individuals should remain "free to adopt policies that express their beliefs that homosexuality is morally wrong."

On August 29, Bishop Louis E. Gelineau of the Catholic diocese of Providence issued a statement opposing the ordinance on the grounds that "Homosexual acts are contrary to God's command," and, "The Catholic Church must avoid giving any approval to legislation which gives the appearance of accepting homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle." Roman Catholics constitute a 70 percent majority of Providence's population.

Members of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, known as the Alliance, spent the month organizing support for the ordinance within and beyond the local gay and lesbian community. Among other efforts,

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Sydney activists demonstrate for New Zealand Homosexual Law Reform Bill, August 16.

Kendall Lovett

News Notes

quote of the week

"If crime against nature presents itself, we'll make the charges. We're just not lucky enough to run up on this kind of thing very often."

— *Nashville, TN Vice Squad Major Harold Woods, as quoted in the Nashville Banner.* The otherwise unfortunate Woods was referring to the arrest of two men for committing a "crime against nature." The actual arrest was made by Vice Officer Lonnie Stevens, who reportedly "chased a known prostitute and her customer" into an adult bookstore, but happened upon two men having sex. The men were held on \$500 bond and face five to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Nashville Public Defender Karl Dean, however, has asked that the charges be dropped, calling the city's crimes-against-nature statute "an outrage." Dean also pointed out that the men "were on private property in an area that was enclosed. There were no allegations of coercion or prostitution."

The crimes-against-nature law, originally enacted in 1829, describes as "crimes" acts including sodomy, fellatio, and cunnilingus either without consent or out of wedlock.

aids campaign in brazil

BRASILIA, BRAZIL — The Brazilian government is organizing a national campaign to teach health officials and citizens how to avoid contracting AIDS, according to the *Washington Blade*.

Pamphlets warning of AIDS symptoms and recommending prophylactic methods will be distributed in schools and to the general public.

Brazil currently ranks fourth in the world behind the U.S., Haiti, and France with 415 AIDS cases and over 200 deaths resulting from the disease.

— *Regina Gillis*

local buzz

BOSTON — A local activist has been named the new executive director of the Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Eric Rofes will take up his duties in the social service agency in mid-October. The center has 60 employees and incorporates a medical clinic, an alcohol abuse program, a counseling department and programs focused on job training, housing, youth, legal services and education. In addition, the center provides programs specifically for lesbians as well as for older gay people. The budget of the center is \$2.7 million.

Rofes is known in the Boston area as the founder and first chairperson of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance. He is also a former *GCN* editor and served on the *GCN* Board of Directors. A former teacher and administrator, Rofes has also written and edited several books, including *The Kids' Book About Death and Dying*, and *Socrates, Plato and Guys Like Me — Confessions of a Gay Schoolteacher*. Rofes also served on boards of the Department of Social Services and the Massachusetts Committee for Children and Youth.

"My primary goals for my first year at the center will be to provide it with strong fiscal management, staff development and program direction," he said. He also listed "reviewing the center's role in regards to the AIDS crisis and considering the allocation of additional resources to the battle against AIDS," as a first priority.

* * *

After a year and a half as the city of Boston's AIDS coordinator, Anne Silvia is leaving that position to become the Health Education Coordinator for the AIDS Action Committee (AAC). "I'm very excited and I'm looking forward to working for the committee," said Silvia who started at her new job on September 9. In her position at the AAC, Silvia will coordinate a staff of health educators as well as provide direct in-service work herself.

Just as she was the first Boston AIDS coordinator, Silvia will also be the first AAC Health Education Coordinator. Previously the AAC had only one health educator who handled the entire load. However, as the number of AIDS cases rises in Massachusetts, the need for expanded education, prevention and patient care has become a higher priority. In its recent budget, the state allocated funds for these activities for the first time.

Currently in Massachusetts there are 345 cases of AIDS, of whom 142 have died.

Silvia said two health educators will be hired; one who will work with the health care providers and one with gay men. The AAC is also talking about hiring a health educator to deal specifically with intravenous drug users.

Silvia said she will be working to "get out accurate information," and will not only take the requests that come in to AAC to do in-services but will also actively seek out appropriate groups. She named, in particular, home care agencies and dental societies. Silvia will also work with the city and state AIDS coordinators. Her replacement as city coordinator has not been named.

— *Christine Guilfoxy*

see the u.s.a. some other way

PHILADELPHIA — AMTRAK has announced that lesbian or gay couples do not qualify for the free rail passes regularly issued to all AMTRAK employee family members, according to the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

The announcement came as a result of an employee's request that AMTRAK consider gay/lesbian lovers in its national free pass policy.

— *Regina Gillis*



Marilyn Humphries

Black lesbian poet Pat Parker. Parker read to a full-house in a September 7 benefit for GCN. (Note: Special thanks to the wonderful Jean Vallon for her help with design and publicity, and to Board member Tom Huth for coordinating sponsors for the event.)

mass lesbian/gay bar meets

BOSTON — The Fall quarterly meeting of the Massachusetts Lesbian & Gay Bar Association will take place on Thursday, September 19th at 5:30 p.m. at Cabot Auditorium, 3 Joy Street, on Beacon Hill. The evening's program is entitled "The Judicial Nominating Process: Fact, Reality & Myth." Speakers will include Steven Rosenfeld, Counsel to the Governor, and the Hon. Paul Garrity, former Superior Court Judge.

The MLGBA membership recently elected its first Board of Directors, including Co-Chairs Richard Burns and Katherine Triantafillou, Treasurer Jean McCray, Clerk Peter Salgo, and Michael Crowley, Barbara Dickey, Ron Dion, Deb Filler, Lynn Johnson, Denise McWilliams, Jo Ross, Terry Sweeney and Chris Westphal.

Membership and programs are open to lawyers and law students. For further information contact Richard Burns at 492-7189 or Katherine Triantafillou at 723-6327.

— *Regina Gillis*

can we talk?

SAN FRANCISCO — Comedian Joan Rivers is facing the heat after comments she made three weeks ago to a San Francisco *Examiner* columnist concerning Rock Hudson's AIDS diagnosis.

According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Rivers stated that she felt Hudson handled the entire situation improperly: "His [Hudson's] people knew all along and should have just come out and acknowledged it was AIDS," Rivers said. "Instead, there were all those lies and deceit until it was impossible to hide the truth."

Rivers went on to express her reluctance to kiss any of her co-stars in the future. "If I had to kiss a co-star...I'd want assurance he doesn't have AIDS.... I can tell you, there's no kissing, no touching. I'm a doctor's daughter and I'm careful," she said.

Critics of Rivers say her remarks reveal her ignorance about AIDS and only serve to fuel AIDS panic.

Rivers, an active supporter in AIDS benefits for the past two years, is "extremely upset" by the negative reaction to her comments. According to her press agent, Joan may stop participating in AIDS benefits in the future.

Rivers helped to raise over \$300,000 for the AIDS Medical Foundation's Scientific Committee at New York's "Comic Relief" benefit last July.

black gay activist

arrested in south africa

SOWETO, South Africa — The founder of a multi-racial gay group opposing apartheid has been arrested for taking part in a student protest against South Africa's segregated educational system, London's *Gay Times* reports.

Black, gay activist Tseko Simon Nokoli and 21 other demonstrators were charged with treason and may be held indefinitely without trial under the current martial law. Nokoli is both coordinator of the Saturday Group — part of the three-year-old Gay Association of South Africa — and general secretary of the Vaal Congress of South African Students.

According to *Gay Times*, Amnesty International is aware of Nokoli's arrest and is following the situation.

Letters of protest can be sent to the South African Embassy, 3051 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC 20016, and State President P.W. Botha, Government Building, Pretoria, South Africa.

— *Gordon Gottlieb*

you can count the victories on your ears

SUMTER, SC — A 13-year-old boy has trounced school officials in his battle to wear an earring to school, according to the Boston *Globe*. "I'm glad that it didn't get any worse than it did and I'm glad to have a mom who stood up for me the way she did," said Michael Jordan of Bates Middle School here.

Superintendent Lawrence Derthick, Jr., said the school's attorney advised him August 26 to let Jordan go his way as he would probably win in court anyway.

stop the air war

BOSTON — In order to protest both the current air war in El Salvador and the U.S. government's role in this bombing of civilians, the Boston Pledge of Resistance has initiated two and a half weeks of education and action.

The "Stop the Air War" campaign culminates Sept. 19-24 with five days of action, now largely focused on the scheduled visit of El Salvador's President Napoleon Duarte. It is unclear whether Duarte will still travel to the U.S., given the Sept. 10 kidnapping of his oldest daughter. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the abduction.

In accordance with the nationwide Pledge call for September actions opposing the air war, the Boston arm had already planned its campaign when Duarte's appearance was announced. Boston University (B.U.) President John Silber invited Duarte to accept an honorary law degree and deliver the keynote address at B.U.'s International Law Day, Friday Sept. 19.

The September days of action include:

Thursday, Sept. 19: Legal protests and civil disobedience (CD) at the Ritz Carlton, where Duarte will be staying

Fri. Sept. 20: Legal protests and CD at Silber's house and at B.U. locations where Duarte will be appearing

Sat. Sept. 21: A mass legal demonstration beginning at Copley Square at noon

The Pledge kicked off the "Stop the Air War" program with a day of informational and outreach skill-building workshops attended by 150 people, Saturday, Sept. 7. From Sept. 7-19, individuals and affinity groups will be attempting to educate and organize more Boston area residents through tabling, leafletting and neighborhood meetings.

The Pledge of Resistance is a nationwide grass roots organization committed to opposing U.S. intervention in Central America. Many of the organization's recent activities have focused on Nicaragua. The September actions, which include lobbying and fundraising, are intended to increase awareness of U.S. involvement throughout Central America, specifically educating people about U.S. atrocities in El Salvador.

The U.S. has allocated over one million dollars per day to the El Salvadoran government, 25 percent of which Congress allotted to the military. The Miller, Leach, Hatfield congressional report, published in March of 1985, revealed that approximately 80 percent of the funding is actually used for the military, which is responsible for 60,000 civilian deaths since 1979, through death squads and the ongoing air attacks.

If you wish to participate in civil disobedience and are not a part of an affinity group, call the Pledge office at 497-9311. To join in outreach efforts, contact Kathy Brown at 491-4205.

— *Laurie Sherman*

Mass. AIDS Policy Defuses School Furor

By Christine Guilfooy

BOSTON — When John McCarthy, the superintendent of schools in Swansea, Massachusetts, learned that a pupil in that system had AIDS, his decision about the child's continued attendance was made easier by the existence of a state policy on school

News Analysis

children with AIDS. Only a matter of weeks before, the Governor's AIDS Task Force had given final approval to a policy which holds that, except in unusual cases, children with AIDS should be allowed to attend their regular classes. The policy emphasizes that AIDS is not spread by casual contact.

(Exceptions are in the case of a child who has open or weeping sores or lesions that cannot be covered, or in the case of a child who exhibits biting or scratching behavior. The policy does not apply to nursery school age children.)

The handling of the case is in stark contrast to other states where children have been barred from school (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 7). In Indiana, a 13-year-old hemophiliac boy was offered a phone hook-up to his classes from his home. No video was included and his mother worried that he would miss a substantial amount of work at the blackboard. Students in the class were admonished to speak up so that the boy at home could hear them.

Although his mother attempted to take the case to court, the courts rejected any action until negotiations with the school system were exhausted. Thus far, however, the school has refused to have him attend classes, saying he is a threat to the health of the other pupils.

In New York City, a second grader diagnosed as having AIDS was allowed to attend school while three other children were not. Of the other three, two are too sick to attend school and one is not attending because his confidentiality was breached and his identity revealed. Officials convinced the child's parents that the child would be better off with a private teacher at home.

The child allowed to attend, a second grader, is reportedly in good health at the moment, and although he has AIDS, has attended kindergarten and first grade uneventfully. The decision to allow the child to attend was made by a specially appointed panel composed of medical experts, an educator and a parent. In New York, decisions about children with AIDS are made on a case by case basis. The panel was composed only recently when it became apparent parents were uneasy about children with AIDS being in the system. There was no policy regarding the schooling of children with AIDS.

But the New York child's attendance at school has sparked public protests, with school officials saying up to 11,000 pupils have been kept from classes by their parents.

(In addition, New York is considering a proposal that school officials monitor teachers with AIDS, and Dr. David Sencer, the public health commissioner told the New York *Times* that he would ask the AIDS-Related Condition (ARC) also become a reportable disease. That way, children with ARC would also be evaluated by the panel.)

There are similar stories in Los Angeles, where a three-year-old was removed from a nursery school, in Miami, where first grade triplets are being taught in a separate building by a special teacher, as well as other states around the country.

In contrast, the Massachusetts case has provoked relatively little protest from parents, although a

few have reportedly removed their children from the Swansea school for an indeterminate amount of time. But generally the town's response has been supportive with parents listening to the medical evidence and keeping their children in school, and students vowing to do what they can to help out.

The guiding rule in education over the past several years has been that children should be placed in the "least restrictive [educational] environment," that is, one which is as "normal" as possible. When children are isolated and taught by a special teacher, or when they attend a class via telephone hook-up, they not only lose out on many important aspects of education, such as peer relations, but they also potentially incorporate harmful images about themselves.

The question, does the scientific or epidemiological evidence warrant the potentially harmful effects of keeping a child from a regular class setting, seems to be the crux of the matter. The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have decided in favor of the child with AIDS, pointing out that AIDS is not spread by casual contact, such as would occur in a school setting. The CDC school policy, like the Massachusetts policy, acknowledges that there are instances where the child should be kept from school, such as if the child is too sick, if he or she exhibits aggressive behavior such as scratching and biting or if there is an outbreak of contagious disease such as chickenpox which might leave the child with AIDS vulnerable to a severe bout of illness.

What accounts for the difference in how these cases are handled from school district to school district? Anne Silvia, a member of both the Massachusetts Governor's Task Force on AIDS and the (Boston) Mayor's Task Force, said she believes a critical factor in both Swansea and a similar case in Cambridge (see *GCN*, Vol. 12, No. 46) was that both bodies had anticipated the problem and had procedures in place. "We tried to stay ahead of the problem," she said. "We knew it was only a matter of time before it would come up. When the Cambridge incident happened, having a draft [policy] in hand was very helpful."

The superintendent of Swansea, John McCarthy, told the Boston *Globe* that when he was told by the child's physician over the summer that the child had AIDS and wanted to reenter school, "The first thing I did, was to find everything I could get my hands on to read about the disease."

Silvia said that there were clearly identifiable people in the Massachusetts system to whom school officials could speak and this provided a solid medical basis on which school officials could make a decision. "School officials acted responsibly in trying to find out the medical facts. They felt satisfied that the medical input they received was reasonable. Emotions can't dictate actions. They didn't panic and the information had [already] been compiled."

When McCarthy contacted the state department of Public Health, he was put in touch with George Grady, MD, the assistant commissioner of health, an epidemiologist and a member of the state task force. Although the state policy had not yet been made public, Grady told the superintendent of its existence and gave him advice as to how to proceed. "We believed that this decision was essentially a medical decision," McCarthy told the *Globe*. "When it was determined that the boy presented no risk to other students, it was simply my job to follow through."

With the help of the boy's physi-

cian and Grady, meetings were held with the school's teachers and one was also held for the parents.

The difference in how schools treat these cases may have to do with the preparedness of public health officials to offer clear and reasonable guidelines backed by the scientific knowledge to date. In New York, a panel was hastily put together and in Indiana, school officials made the decision unassisted. But Massachusetts began preparing a policy last May, and the Boston school superintendent, Robert Spillane, announced last June that children with AIDS would be allowed to attend under the guidelines. In Boston, school nurses attended an inservice on AIDS and plans are in the works to have teachers and administrators attend a similar inservice. Silvia said they hope eventually to incorporate AIDS education into the curriculum.

Although the CDC released guidelines in the last days of August, they probably came too late to stem the already rising tide of fear experienced by parents in places like Indiana and New York.

But even with the work done by the city and state task forces, there was still some apparent discomfort in the local media stories. In addition to a small number of parents who removed their children from the school, there were also scattered television news reports, one of which raised a domino theory (if people with AIDS can go to school, will they be working in kitchens next?).

Another media report questioned whether chewing on pencils or sticking spent chewing gum under the desk have been dismissed as possible modes of transmission. "We can't say with 100 percent assurance that AIDS can't be transmitted that way, but we give [almost] that degree of assurance," said Silvia. Responding to the demands of some that ironclad guarantees be given, Silvia said "We can't give a 100 percent guarantee that a bomb won't be planted or that somebody won't fall out a window, either."

But Silvia called those possibilities "highly unlikely" and said that if [these were modes of transmission] there would be a "larger number of AIDS cases distributed more randomly [in the general population]."

Silvia also pointed to the fact that there have been no documented cases of health care workers who have contracted the

disease who have not themselves been in a high risk group. Currently, there are ongoing studies with "needle stick" cases, that is, where health workers have inadvertently stuck themselves with a needle used on a person with AIDS. Such instances presumably provide a direct inoculation, and as such, could be expected to result in transmission of AIDS. However, even in these cases, nobody has gotten AIDS.

Scientists who have worked with the HTLV-III retrovirus, which has been implicated as the cause of AIDS, say that the virus disintegrates rapidly outside the body. Silvia points to this evidence in responding to the pencil chewing theory.

According to statistics from the CDC, there have been fewer than 200 children diagnosed with AIDS and when teens are taken into account, fewer than 300. Some of these children died before reaching school age and some were too sick to attend. In the United States today, there are a relatively small number of children who are affected by this controversy. But the number of children with CDC-defined AIDS will grow and the number of children with ARC will grow with it. For every CDC-defined case of AIDS, there are

probably ten times that number who have ARC, and there may be ten times that number who have been exposed to the virus and whose infectivity is unknown.

Anticipating an increase in cases, state and school officials need to establish clear guidelines based on current medical evidence so that these children can receive the best education their circumstances will allow.

And the situation in the schools nationwide is a model for future situations which may particularly affect gay men. For example, Boston's task force is looking at situations which might arise for people who are HTLV-III positive, and the state is discussing how to handle the psychiatric needs of people, particularly juveniles, with AIDS.

At least in the case of the schools, it has seemed that the public reacts the most reasonably when public officials have anticipated the situation, know the issues involved, and have developed reasonable solutions and rationale. In Massachusetts, AIDS activists, public health officials and medical providers deserve credit for working together to identify upcoming problems and to develop solutions.

Mixed Election Results

By Christine Guilfooy

BOSTON — In elections that few people even noticed, several candidates endorsed by the Rainbow Coalition and the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (BLGPA) have made it to the final elections in November.

Topping the city council at-large race was Albert L. O'Neil, a long time conservative councilor who recently referred to a coalition of gay people and progressives who have targeted him for defeat as "sick's." He also was the only councilor to vote against the city's recently enacted human rights ordinance and has maintained that the ordinance would mean mixed gender bathrooms. O'Neil has used the progressive coalition to rally conservative support for his campaign. The extremely low primary turnout (only 17 percent of registered voters) generally favors conservative candidates.

Also making it to the final November ballot in the at-large council race were four candidates

endorsed by BLGPA: Michael McCormack, Christopher Iannella, Willie Mae Allen and Michael Kane. Both Kane and Allen were endorsed by the Rainbow Coalition. Progressives believe that of their candidates, Kane may have the best chance of garnering one of the four available at-large seats in the final election.

District council candidates Bruce Bolling, David Scondras and Brian McLaughlin all topped their primary ballots. All are incumbents and only McLaughlin is expected to have any difficulty in the finals. Each was endorsed both by BLGPA and the Rainbow. Charles Yancey, who was endorsed by Rainbow, will also be in the finals.

In the only school seat contested in the primaries, Juanita Wade, endorsed by both organizations, topped the ticket over incumbent Grace Romero. They face one another in the final election in November.

Judge Sides with Military in On-Campus Recruiting

By Regina Gillis

PHILADELPHIA — A federal judge issued an order September 11 declaring Philadelphia's Fair Practices Act (FPA) of 1982, which prohibited discrimination in hiring on the basis of sexual orientation, unconstitutional.

The case originally involved two gay students at Temple University who claimed that the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps violated the FPA in its recruitment of students on campus, since the JAG Corps refuses to hire homosexuals.

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) ruled in favor of the students on February 1. Temple University and the U.S. Justice Department filed separate suits against the city of Philadelphia on March 15, claiming freedom of association as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution and the Supremacy Clause, which states that federal law reigns over state or, in this case, local law, when the two conflict.

In his ruling, Judge James T.

Giles declined to rule on Temple's argument of "academic freedom," but ruled in favor of the U.S. Justice Department's and Temple's other two summary arguments.

"The defendants agree and concede that the conduct of the United States (JAG Corps), in terms of its discrimination of homosexuals, while abhorrent to local ordinance, is constitutional and has no power or authority to attempt to regulate that federal activity," Giles said.

"The action of the city of Philadelphia through the commission attempts to regulate directly or indirectly through Temple the conduct of the United States....

"By declaring Temple is engaging in illegal activity...the defendants are declaring illegal the policy of the United States with respect to its discrimination against homosexuals," Giles concluded.

According to Dr. Leah White, executive commissioner of the PCHR, the commission has not yet decided whether to appeal the ruling. "We have not yet had a

chance to review the judge's decision. We will do it as soon as we receive a copy of the ruling and then we can start the internal review process in motion," she said.

David Webber, attorney for the original case between the students and Temple, was disappointed about the ruling. "The judge showed far too much deference to the military," he said.

"The ruling is significant because it is the only ruling of its kind — where students have eventually brought suit against the military and recruiting practices on campus, and because the case has gone from the commission stage to federal court," Webber added. "The ruling is not significant or binding as a precedent because of the facts of the case," he noted.

Abby Rubinfeld, a spokeswoman for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, feels that the real issue behind the case has yet to be examined. "We

Continued on page 6

Community Voices

GCN Job Openings

GCN is currently accepting applications for the following full-time positions. We welcome inquiries about these jobs.

Local Reporter (available early October 1985): Research, investigate and write news stories about Boston/New England, and, as necessary, national news stories. *Qualifications:* Strong writing skills and ability to write several news stories under weekly deadlines pressures. Knowledge of local/national gay and lesbian community and issues helpful.

Promotions/Classified Advertising Manager (available January 1986): Use direct mail marketing, exchange ads, renewal campaigns and other strategies to increase subscription and newsstand sales of the paper. Process and lay out weekly classified ads. *Qualifications:* Strong writing, administrative, creative and organizational skills. Previous promotions/marketing experience helpful.

Design Director (available on or before January 1986): Establish overall design of the paper, and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design (or assign to volunteer artists) front cover, centerspread artwork/layout, and book supplement graphics, as well as promotional brochures, leaflets, etc. *Qualifications:* Strong graphic design/art skills. Familiarity with type specifications, knowledge of printing techniques and previous related experience preferred.

All three positions require a commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racist politics, and the collective decision-making process.

Salary/Benefits: \$150/week and fully paid health and life insurance, sick time and three weeks' paid vacation. Each position offers the staff member responsibility for his/her own job, with some flexible hours and ample room for innovation.

To apply, please send resume and cover letter immediately to: GCN Search Committee, *Gay Community News*, 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111. Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

support kitchen table press

Dear GCN:

In November of 1982, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press did a direct-mail fundraising campaign to which many individuals generously responded. Unfortunately, our mailing list of donors from November, 1982 through February, 1983 is no longer available to us as it was taken without our knowledge from our office. If you made a donation during that period, you are no longer a part of the Kitchen Table Press mailing list. We would like to retrieve as much of that list as possible in order to launch this fall's direct-mail campaign. This fundraising effort will be vital to Kitchen Table Press' continued survival, so if you would like to make sure you are listed please send us a postcard with your current address.

Our fall catalogue listing fifty titles by women of color will be available soon. If you are not on our mailing list and want to be added, you may also send us a postcard with your address. Write to: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, Box 2753-D, New York, NY 10021.

Thank you,
Barbara Smith
Kitchen Table Press
New York, NY

when economic interests outweigh human ones

Dear GCN:

I am utterly disgusted by President Reagan's reported decision to veto economic sanctions against South Africa. The eighty-six percent of South Africans who are black routinely suffer racial segregation and discrimination at the hands of the white minority. Blacks cannot vote, live in "white" townships, or work for equal pay with whites. Their schools are inferior and they cannot even drink from "white" bubblers or sit in "white" parks.

The whole world, including the U.S. public, is finally opening its eyes to this travesty and refusing to deal with the racist South African government. In his steadfast "engagement" with the white supremacist apartheid regime, President Reagan stands alone, a bulwark of oppression.

Reagan apparently will support any sort of regime as long as it is anti-communist and defends U.S. business interests. But what of the twenty-four million black South Africans who continue to suffer from this policy? The riots in the townships are their message to the world that they have had enough!

What will Reagan do when civil war breaks out in South Africa? Will he stand by and watch as blacks are slaughtered by the vastly better armed apartheid regime? Or will he send in the Marines on behalf of "normalcy" and the white supremacists, as he promised to do during the 1980 presidential campaign? This country has economic interests but have we no human interests?

Black South Africans will no longer tolerate apartheid and hopefully neither will the U.S. public. But if defending racist oppression is to be the foreign policy of the United States under Reagan, let us not cry or be surprised when angry peoples revolt and bomb our embassies abroad.

Sincerely,
Frank Holland
New Bedford, MA

who really kidnaps children

Dear GCN:

Public concern about missing children reached a new peak recently, after a nationwide night telecast of "Adam" — a real-life story of the kidnap and murder of a Florida boy. The network showed pictures of several missing children and appealed to the public to help find them.

Photos of missing children show up everywhere: on billboards, shopping bags, milk cartons and matchbooks, even in some of our utility bills. Now 82 US Senators have signed a letter asking the 3 major TV networks to broadcast these pictures regularly in prime-time slots (S.F. *Chronicle*, May 17, 1985).

But the ugliest truth is now appearing: almost all of the children "discovered" after these pictures are shown were kidnapped by one of *their own parents*. Barbara Chapman, media director for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C. has now admitted that 94% of the cases they've handled are *parental abductions* (S.F. *Chronicle*, May 2, 1985).

Chapman also acknowledged that the annual abductions, including the many parental kidnappings, may be less than 25,000. Yet most experts on missing children estimate that about 2 million disappear each year: about half of them run away, because the horror at home is worse than the horror of the streets, while the other half are "thrown away" (abandoned or forced out) by their own parents. Nearly all of these children reappear, sooner or later, without the aid of a nationwide dragnet.

On this basis, only about 1% of missing children actually are abducted. Less than one in a thousand missing children are taken by anyone other than a parent. So the child-savers' own statistics point to a multitude of urgent problems *within* families, and not to any unusual external menace.

The spectre of strangers who snatch one's children is nothing new, of course. In another era, Gypsies were thought to be child-snatchers. Today, the evil is played by others: adults without children. Perhaps Lesbians and Gays. What the networks falsely imply, the Falwells proclaim: Adults without children pose a menace to the family.

Contrary to the vicious images of strangers repeatedly shown by the media, nearly all child disappearance can be traced to real parental problems, power struggles, and the widespread abuse and neglect of young people within contemporary families.

It won't help to keep writing more dangerous, unenforceable laws, or inventing agencies such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Nor will it help to continue scaring children and parents with right-wing propaganda. Children, naturally, are terrified by these shows. Horrified parents rush to have their children fingerprinted, in the mistaken belief that law enforcement agencies alone, if given more money and public support, can save their children from a terrible fate.

As Arthur Evans pointed out in *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture*, throughout history oppressed minorities have been accused of child-stealing and child-murder. We are being defamed, all of us, daily, by those milk cartons.

Sincerely,
Floyd Conaway
San Francisco, CA

criticize, don't undermine cuba

Dear GCN:

I was interested and excited when I saw on the cover of your July 6 issue that it included an article in which "Three lesbian socialists take a critical look at Cuba." Unfortunately a more accurate title for the article would have been, "Three lesbians take a look at a movie critical of Cuba."

I was irritated that the authors had chosen to publish their discussion which was based solely on the way their thinking was influenced by the movie, *Improper Conduct*. None of the authors had any particular insight into the situation in Cuba. One, admittedly, was discussing the way the film changed her thinking, "even though out of ignorance, I didn't have a clear position to begin with." It appears they sought no additional information nor did any research. I have to question why GCN felt this discussion warranted a two page centerspread.

While I haven't seen the film, the reactionary ideology that it fostered is clearly and uncritically reflected in the article. When Vanessa Nemeth writes, "Admitting that the Cuban Revolution is bullshit leaves you with nothing to fight for.... You want to fight to create something and there's no model for it especially no model close to home. It seems so hopeless in a way," she's succumbing to the attitude that for a revolution to be a success it must create a utopian society no matter what the material conditions out of which it grows. While acknowledging that the film ignores the gains the people of Cuba have made since Batista was overthrown, the authors fail to take them into account themselves. They present the contradictions that the film raises as a basis for completely dismissing the Cuban revolutionary process.

North American leftists need to struggle to understand and when we do, explain the different structures of the revolutionary process we support (an endeavor to which this article added nothing). But we must also keep in mind that we can't simply superimpose another model upon the U.S. or Puerto Rico. We must project a vision which reflects the material conditions which exist here and which, I agree, include a very specific and firmly held notion of what is democratic. But we should do it without dismissing the gains that have been made in countries which reject a capitalist model. We should criticize when we have information that compels us to but let's leave the undermining to the liberals and right-wingers.

As the article goes on to discuss the homophobia and racism in the movie, the authors finally recognize that the film uses the persecution of gays to attack the Cuban revolution rather than genuinely challenging homophobia. Stephanie Poggi acknowledges that the film is "bolstering the right wing and capitalism" but the authors fail to notice that it has persuaded them to dismiss the Cuban revolution and to write an article which promotes that position!

Gay rights have not been achieved in our "democracy." Granting them or withholding them bear no relation to whether a society is socialist or capitalist. They will come when homophobia has been eradicated (or at least significantly reduced) and that will result from the struggles of lesbians, gay men and their allies.

When Nancy Wechsler laments the lack of a "revolutionary socialist" calling for an overthrow of the Cuban government in the film, she reveals a dangerous misunderstanding of the situation. It's no coincidence that the individuals in the film are heading for the good life in Miami. A lesbian or gay revolutionary socialist would be struggling to resolve the contradictions in the only socialist* country in this hemisphere that continues to exist against extraordinary odds. They probably wouldn't have made it to the top of the system but they wouldn't have bailed out either.

What I was hoping to find in the article was a discussion of the problems that exist in Cuba. I know they must exist there as they do here within our own struggles — the issue of classism within the gay rights movement, for example. But unfortunately I found neither information nor insight. I encourage you to try and look at this subject again with some of the perceptive analysis that characterizes GCN.

In sisterhood and struggle,

Kelley Ready
Jamaica Plain, MA

*The Nicaraguans' stated goal is for a mixed economy.

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Speaking Out

For Kenny (and for all of us)

By Ed Mead

Kenny Page is dead. He hung himself in his cell at the Special Offender Center, an institution located next door to the one i am in here in Monroe, Washington. I heard the news on the radio the morning after it happened and in the days since then i've given Kenny a lot of thought, always with a lot of fondness and sometimes with tears.

The Special Offenders Center is a 144 man facility designed for housing prisoners with mental or emotional 'problems.' I was there for political rather than medical reasons, putting me in a 'nuthouse' to silence my overly critical pen. (Today it's a bare administrative isolation cell and only the stub of a pencil to write with.)

Anyway, one day in comes lovely Kenny Page, as fine a specimen of tender youth as one could hope to meet. But what's even more remarkable, i discovered as i came to know him better, was his beautiful personality, so gentle and trusting.

Kenny's effect on me was not unlike that of a delicate wild flower blossoming in an otherwise drab field of tundra. I tried to be his friend and in that respect i believe i was successful. When the more aggressive prisoners would seek to manipulate him or to exploit his modest commissary purchases, i would intervene in his behalf and then quietly explain to him the nature of the jungle of madness in which we lived.

I suppose i loved him. My sexual fantasies certainly included scenes of the two of us in a variety of intimacies. Yet i never let on to him that my interests were anything more than platonic. Just being near him gave me the joy my heart craved for. Overt advances, i felt, would create contradictions -he was not yet ready for. Besides, the conditions of confinement were such that sexual expression of affection was difficult.

One day Kenny was ordered moved to another unit. The news saddened both of us. I helped him pack his things and then, after lingering for as long as we could, walked him to the door. As he left i waved him on his way. His departing figure grew smaller as he traveled down the long hallway, and as he went further the emptiness inside me grew. We were separated without so much as a hug.

The windows of the cells in each of the 4 units faced the exercise yard. When Kenny's unit was out i would watch for him. And sure enough, one of the first things he would do is come by and give me a cheerful wave. I'd wave back and we would happily gesture back and forth until the silence and distance overcame us, then he would go off by himself to a corner of the yard, where he'd sit and feel the sun and wind, or explore the insect life in the grass. On my yard-out days, the process would be reversed. Only instead of sitting in the grass, i'd be playing soft ball with my fellow prisoners.

A month or so later i left that unit and with me came the kind memories of the time i

spent with Kenny. Now time has passed and strewn in with the fading memories of those days are the dormant seeds of regret — regret for the possibility of what might have been. The news of Kenny's death has caused those seeds to sprout and grow like weeds. The regret is mine, i deserve it for not reaching out and grabbing with all my being that which my heart demanded and which was within my reach. But i feel anger too, and its source does not lie within me, but at the doorstep of my captors — those who see love as an enemy to be crushed.

Would Kenny be dead today if he had had love in his life? I think not. Had we touched, and held and kissed and fondled and snuggled and sucked and fucked each other, would any vital or legitimate interest of the state have been injured? Of course not. Giving of sexual expression to the tender emotional bond Kenny and i shared would have strengthened both of us. Instead he was housed in an emotional wasteland, devoid of human feelings and concern. It killed him. It's killing us all in one way or another, by degree. Murder, an inch at a time.

Kenny is gone. But the bigoted mentality of the state, and the system of profits and security it puts before people's lives, remains to claim more victims. The next time i have the good fortune to know another person like Kenny, i'll proudly declare my feelings. And in the mean time i'll renew my dedication to add my one human power to the overthrow of the sexist and exploitive order dominated by the American way of forceful solutions to social conflicts.

For now, before i drift off to sleep, i'll masturbate in honor of Kenny's memory — to the warm and loving person he was, and with the wholesome feeling his nearness inspired inside me. But first i must look to see if the guard is heading this way ...

Ed Mead
251397
Wash. St. Reformatory
Monroe, WA 98272

“Speaking Out” is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to “Speaking Out” should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in “Speaking Out” do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111

Community Voices

gcn: unquestioned middle-class outlook

Dear GCN:

Scott Tucker begins his recent letter to Community Voices by asking rhetorically whether lesbian and gay radicals should join socialist organizations. I won't argue that anybody should or should not join anything, but there are assumptions in that question and there are other statements in his letter that deserve comment.

A couple of months ago, a writer commented in a GCN review that the movie *Another Country* showed that sexuality and sexual identity may possibly be the most important factors in life, “more important than national identity, ideological persuasion and class background” (Vol. 12, No. 46). But the movie concerned sex, romance and homophobic reaction among students at an upper-class British boys' school who obviously had little in life to worry about besides sex; they were a tiny privileged minority who could take for granted a life of physical comfort and abundance. Could sexuality have had the same relative importance in the lives of the miners, factory hands and colonial subjects their wealth depended on?

Should lesbian and gay radicals join socialist organizations? Is it possible that a lesbian or gay radical might have a few other pressing concerns in life besides sexuality? Might those concerns be proper subjects for organized political activity? Is it possible that the only groups even talking about those concerns might be socialist organizations?

There is, of course, a corollary to Scott's question: should working-class and poor people join lesbian and gay organizations? In response to my own statement to the contrary in an earlier letter, he says gay socialists have dealt adequately with the issue of class and a couple of sentences later praises GCN as a model of democracy. Having spent four years there, if i had the time and the inclination (i have neither), i think i could write a book about GCN and class. For the present i will state flatly that GCN, the organization as distinct from the publication it produces, is fundamentally white and middle-class, with a disproportionate amount of power resting with the upper half of that class. i love and miss some of the people i have been privileged to know at the paper, but the truth remains that in race and class GCN is essentially homogeneous.

That all the staff and practically all the active membership have been white since the paper began (or at least were up until the time i left last year) is easily verifiable. That's not a total condemnation of GCN, since Boston is easily one of the most racist cities in the country and particularly since the paper has made commendable efforts at consciousness raising and affirmative action and has published some excellent writing by and about non-white lesbians and gay men. But the racial makeup of GCN is a fact.

What is less obvious but no less factual is the predominance of the upper-middle class. i don't know how to prove that without offending any individuals, but people who graduate from Har-

vard, Vassar and Hamilton College and people who are lawyers, architects and college professors and people who can afford yearly vacations on the continent or in Rio can accurately be described as upper-middle class. Of course there are and have been working-class individuals at the paper and of course not all the middle-class individuals have been wealthy, but the class nature of the paper is clear and clearly relevant to any discussion of class consciousness on the lesbian and gay left.

To assume that class origin and present class status have no bearing on attitudes toward sexuality and toward political activity is to accept uncritically the myth of a universal middle class in this country. In a middle-class environment, that assumption is self-serving and damaging, since it preserves unexamined and unconscious middle-class perspectives.

At low points in its history GCN has witnessed, in casual conversation and in print, more than subtle biases. Infrequent but unmistakable open contempt for blue-collar workers and particularly for the Southern white working class, an easy target in Boston despite GCN's claim to being a national publication, may be tolerable in an organization that prides itself on its diversity of views. But an atmosphere in which no real discussion of biases or open contempt can take place hardly befits an organization that has dealt adequately with the issue of class. If any such general discussion has taken place, it has been only in the past year and has so far failed to reach the readership.

Finally, Scott says his praise for GCN's democracy is qualified. i would say democracy of form is irrelevant to questions of class and racial makeup, and therefore class and racial perspective, and largely irrelevant to questions of power. As is probably true in most such organizations, social factors like individual and group allegiances are the key to understanding real, as distinct from theoretical, power. In a predominantly upper-middle-class organization like GCN, within a community as prone to cliquishness as the lesbian and gay community, unconscious class perspectives play much more than a peripheral role.

David Morris
Austin, TX

Legislative Alert

The Massachusetts House of Representatives is expected to take up the state gay/lesbian rights bill, H.3123, on Monday, September 23. The Mass. Gay Political Caucus encourages Massachusetts voters — especially those in the Boston suburbs and in western Massachusetts — to visit, phone or write their representatives urging them to support the bill. A very close vote is expected.

To find out who your state representative is and his/her voting record on gay rights, call MGPC at 625-3172.

subtext: the u.s. is not the world

Dear GCN:

Since the general public still associates AIDS with Gays, here is one thing we can do to change that. Whenever you see an article that says “AIDS is found mostly among homosexual men, intravenous drug users, and hemophiliacs,” you should write a letter and demand that from now on they say, “In this country AIDS is usually found among homosexual men, intravenous, etc., while in Africa it is primarily a heterosexual disease, affecting 50% women and 50% men.

If we do this every time they misinform, the truth will soon be out.

Love you all,
Teresa Bellmont
Oakland, CA

Defense Committee Update

“Foster Equality” buttons are now available. Send one dollar to the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, P.O. Box 225, Somerville, MA 02144.... The first GLDC newsletter is available. To add your name to the mailing list, write to the above address — Attention: Melanie....

Duke Watch: Day-long series of actions Saturday, September 21, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Details to be announced, or call GLDC hotline, 628-6007.... **Governor's Cup Race** on Sunday, September 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Charles Street by the Boston Common.

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Continued from page 1

surability.

Nationwide now plans to test all prospective male applicants for HTLV-III antibody, should it come to the company's attention that the applicant is gay. Nationwide's Lou Fabro said that information could come to the company's attention if it were part of a doctor's record or an investigative consumer report checking on the applicant's background. Should such an applicant either refuse to take the test, or come up positive on the test, he could be denied health insurance, life insurance, or both.

ACLI approached the California Legislature tentatively at the end of the last legislative session,

Continued on page 7

Military

Continued from page 3

feel that the military regulations themselves [preventing homosexuals from enlisting] are unconstitutional. The Japanese interment [of World War II] was a perfect example. That was a decision based on a broad assessment of military necessity, too," Rubinfeld commented.

Loretta DeLoggio, one of the law students at Temple involved in the original case, remains pessimistic. "I was disappointed [about the injunction]," she said, "[but] I was not surprised — especially since it involved the military. It was one branch of the federal government asking for a favor from another."

— filed from Boston

Correction

In an article on New Hampshire's pending anti-lesbian and -gay foster care policy, *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 8, Thomas Herman's relationship to Youth Services, Inc. of Keene was inaccurately described. The article should have said that although Herman's foster care license was not revoked, children will not be placed with him pending establishment of a formal policy in the state.

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Insurance Companies

Continued from page 6

but does not expect to intensify its lobbying efforts until the body reconvenes next year. The trade group has not yet lobbied the Wisconsin Legislature.

Bier said that should laws restricting insurance companies access to the HTLV-III test remain intact, insurers would probably exercise one or more of a number of options. First, they could exclude all gay men from their insurance rolls, although Bier said, "I have no idea how it would be determined if someone were homosexual." Second, they could exclude all persons from a neighborhood with a high incidence of people with AIDS: "Redlining like that is illegal in property and casualty insurance," Bier said, "but it isn't in life and health insurance." Third, they could exclude people who, on

the basis of their medical records, were thought to be promiscuous. Bier, Rish, and Fabro all cited promiscuity as a necessary but not sufficient cause of AIDS. Fourth and finally, they could simply write exclusionary clauses into their new insurance policies, stating that benefits would not be paid to claims generated due to complications of AIDS. Bier emphasized that such provisions, were they to be implemented, would apply only to new policies.

Rish said that insurance companies bear no social responsibilities to people with AIDS. He was concerned that people who tested positive for HTLV-III would take out life and health insurance so as not to be a burden on their friends and families should they develop AIDS, and was

afraid that the industry would have to bear that burden instead. "Insurance companies are businesses," Rish said, "they are not a social system."

In suggesting what is to be done, Rish said, "I don't want to draw a parallel, but only people on flood plains want flood insurance. Insurance companies cannot afford and should not afford the tremendous costs associated with expenses following a flood. So the federal government addresses flood insurance."

— filed from Boston

New Zealand

Continued from page 1

Many activists supporting the bill believe that New Right involvement, especially that from the U.S., is connected to New Zealand's recent passage of an anti-nuclear policy. The policy prohibits the U.S. from entering New Zealand ports with naval vessels carrying nuclear weapons.

International lesbian and gay actions in solidarity with New Zealand queers have been organized with August 16 a special day of

protest in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, and Vancouver, British Columbia. Other demonstrations were held in New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., in Edinburgh, Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, Toronto, Cologne, and Montreal, focusing on the Salvation Army and New Zealand consulates.

In Sydney, Kendall Lovett reports that gay "gospeller" Oral Richards addressed a crowd of picketers outside the consulate. In Melbourne, more than 30 lesbians, gay men and supporters picketed both the consulate and the Government Tourist Bureau, which eventually was forced to close early.

Alison Thorne, addressing the rally as Vice President of the Gay Legal Rights Coalition and Melbourne Freedom Socialist Organizer, said, "The forces who seek to defeat the Homosexual Law Reform Bill are the very same forces who oppose abortion rights, sex education and Maori land claims. They are the people who support ANZUS and sporting contact with South Africa. In short, they are the racist, sexist, union-busting bigots who find that homophobia fits in nicely with their right wing multi-issue program."

The picket was endorsed by a number of lesbian, gay, feminist, and student groups, including Enola Gay, Stonewall Collective, Gayzette Collective, Radical Women, the Freedom Socialist Party, and the Latrobe University Action Resource Centre.

— filed from Boston

Clarification

Two GCN reports on this country's Homosexual Law Reform Bill have contained conflicting information. Contrary to statements in a feature, Vol. 13, No. 6, no legislation to institute the death penalty for gay men and lesbians or to quarantine queers has been introduced. Rather, as noted in a news note, Vol. 13, No. 8, anti-gay and -lesbian campaigners have only called for such "solutions." Pastor Richard Flinn has called for the death penalty, and Keith Hay has called for quarantine of homosexuals on a waterless volcanic atoll.

At present, according to Alison Laurie, Flinn says he would only want the death penalty in a "perfect Christian state" such as clearly New Zealand is not. In the "perfect, Christian state" however, Flinn would demand the death penalty for adulterers, homosexuals, and "rebellious children."

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DRAGON FLIGHTS

*"Those who protest at injustice are people of true merit.
When the prison-doors are opened, the real dragon will fly
out."*
Ho Chi Minh

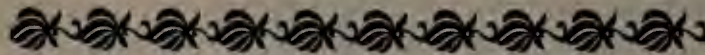


Richard Lindhorst, Walla Walla, WA



This year's prisoner poetry spread is dedicated
to the memory of Ho Chi Minh, prisoner, poet.
He wrote:

*The rose at evening blossoms, and then
it fades away.
It's opening and it's withering continue
all unnoticed.
But the fragrance of the rose floats upward
into the depths of the prison.
Telling the inmates there of life's
injustice and sorrow.*



Unending

Injustice
Corruption
Pain
Malfunction

Favoritism
Wickedness
Agony
Maliciousness

Tribunal
Animalize
Re-afflict
Demoralize

Marie Lake

*(Written for a sister
who is on lock thru
no fault of her own)*

The Boy of My Heart

I love you,
So beware lest you lose
The substance of your heart
And fall in love too!
I am not a man
That can blow hot and cold
With the same breath
For I love you.
I would far rather
Have been ignorant of you
Than knowledgeable of you.
For with the knowledge of you
I lost the substance of my heart.
Why do we always have to fall
In love with the one we cannot have?
But you are the boy of my heart.
I love you.

Robert Owen Scott

Secret Life

Before
I ran
I ran from a fear.
Now
I run to my fear.
It is strong and true.
I will stay there.
I will fight inside myself. . .

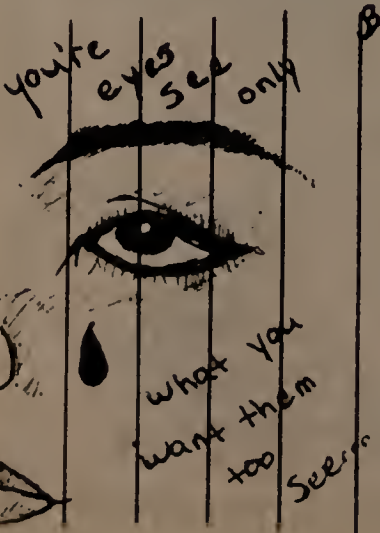
Hank Purcell

Memories

Whenever the sun goes down
I see the eyes
shine bright, glowing
as if the sunset itself
depended on these
glowing eyes.

I hear no sounds,
only my sobs
that shatter
my eardrums
as I seek
self-pleasure
remembering
how once I ran
and laughed
and challenged
time.

Robyn Shawnee Jackson



Surviving

Sitting here with my own feelings at the
moment —
when you crossed my mind.
A tear fell from my eye —
a delicate crystal glass holds my emotions —
holds yours.
This is the heart.
So strong —
standing up to a storm —
yet often blown away by a whisper.
I hurt with the pain you feel inside —
and my own.
Again —
I feel the rage that seems to grow —
more intense —
more fierce each day.
Trapped —
you —
and I.
Each in our own way —
similar —
yet different.
I wipe away this burning tear —
remembering —
"It's only if you choose to feel this way."
"They can't lock-up your mind, kiddo."
Deep within —
I search for the answer. . .
to end this rage?
to end the sadness?

There is a feeling, though —
one of pride, strength —
a feeling loving and good.
A kind of hope in my rage —
your rage.
You showed me this hope —
"Did you find it too?"
No one can end the violence —
not our actions —
not our voices.
But we can come to know ourselves from it.
Know ourselves as who we are —
defining 'I' for ourselves —
finding our innermost openings and strengths.
The parts we learn are our own feelings —
and with this —
you —
and I —
can survive.

Jackie Beattie
(Dedicated to K.B.)

Whispies

long days of blue skies
dreams of hope lay behind her dark eyes
I look. I see
they say we look like sisters
little do they know, we are
we're also friends & lovers
God, we've come so far
though she's in the "free world"
& I'm what they call "locked-down"
we've done four years together
they cannot break our bond
we laugh we cry we grow
& love remains strong
but the pain never ceases
watching her walk out that gate
I just need to go home
though I'm caught in my own fate
the years, they can't keep them from passing
& right here with me she'll be
& I know that dream will come to life
the day they set me free

Sarah Gibson

The sorrows we suffer within our confinements
Are enough to shatter the interior of most men.
Yet some, as I, believe ourselves
To be capable of forming a shatterproof defense
Against this offensive ailment.

Yet, we want our lives to be filled
With grace and gratitude, as all humans should be.

But we are forbidden such luxury.

So the struggle continues,
Until all humans share in the dignity
Of mutual understanding.

David Jude Leaverton

"I Wonder"

I wonder if I'd died
and gone to hell
only to wake up
and hear the guard's call,
if I'd've forgotten
how to love and to feel
alone in this nightmare
of concrete and steel.

I had someone
who said he cared
so long ago;
but when I asked
if he'd wait
the answer was no.

So now there is no one
no place to call home.
I've learned well how
to feel alone.

But if you're somewhere
and need to feel together
there may be a cell
where we can share pleasures.
I'd smile when you're happy,
hold you when you're sad
'tween the lines of my letters.
So stop wondering so bad
And send me a letter (smile).

Frank Randall

Masses of Tiny Fingers

Soft, thin,
the hood of the eye
closes downwards
with the lashes
long and curled
pointing outward
toward the world
like masses of tiny fingers.

N.T. Kallenberg

A Little Something to Last

How you turned my head the other day!
That adeptness in your eyes,
That took me by surprise. . .

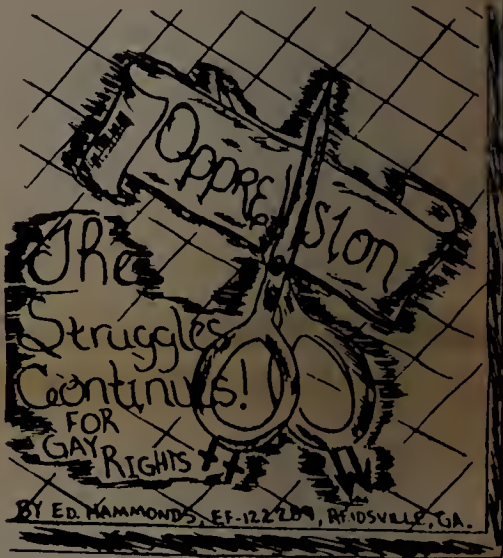
I don't know you,
But really wish I could,
And to be simple and true,
Yes, I think I should.

That is, if you can allow,
Me as a friend, no strings attached,
To show you somehow,
A friendship rarely matched!

I have only one downfall,
Of being a sentimental fool,
But, hey, I'll accept it all
If you'll only say it's cool.

I know I was never on your mind,
But still you took me fast,
And now I'm just hoping to find,
A little something to last.

Norman Pearson



Massage

Oil heated via the stinger,
In jails standardized sinks,
Sliming on to a back, gleaming
Of diamonds, lingering beads
Deposited in the arches of
Spine,
Till the touch of fingers,
Feeling the ignition light
The passion of any touch
That helps to ease the
Soreness of loneliness.

Steven Lee Smith

A whisper, a plan to escape,
He shivers at the thought of the
route,
Where the throat meets the groin
And the nape feels the touch of
Delicate but firm love,
And now the time is short and
Secret, hidden behind a half inch of
Steel,
While embedded fears run wild,
Making sex seem like a traffic jam.

Steven Lee Smith

Notches on the fighter plane,
X-ed in under the hero's name,
So many victories he can claim,
But I like the Red Baron,
Laugh and waltz before his eyes,
My prize never given,
Knowing it's the secret of
Our magic that keeps our
Friendship alive,
I hold back with difficulty,
Wishing I could give without
Losing him — something I
Know will never be possible.

Steven Lee Smith

I knew a hustler

I knew a hustler,
a young boy
who said, "Hello"
to prospective tricks
while leaning
against a wall
on Polk St.

He sold his body
and went the streets
alone
terribly glad
to have men
buy his wares.

All night long
he ran the streets
desolate, cold, and hungry,
hunting a cup of coffee
and a place to stay.

Some said: "He's just
a hustler, liar and thief."
However,
when no one was looking,
with fog about
he would slip
into his home —
a dark alley
with everyone gone.

Patrick Earl

She and I

The sky was blue
The moon was high
There was no one else
But she and I
Her hair so soft
Her eyes so true
I knew just what
She wanted to do
Her legs so shapely
Her fingers so fine
I ran my hand
Down her spine
I didn't know how
But I did my best
By placing my hand
Upon her breast
Then I slowly moved
Her legs apart
I'm threw
I'm done
It's over now
My first experience
Milking a cow.

Renee Rogers

Prison Love

Do you want to know what we love in prison.
Well, I'll tell you . . .
Alfred Hitchcock, sit-coms, Hallmark cards,
and for some strange reason, the calendar . . .
(when all we see in them is time).
We love daylight because
it gets so lonely in our cells at night.
I love Coke cans, for one reason; the cans
give us back five cents!
I love eggs because it's the only thing
They can't fuck up,
aside from hotdogs and hamburgers.
One thing we don't love here . . . is each other.
We should, because no one else around here
is going to love us.
I love you just because
you are reading this poem.

Renee Rogers

Strait Men?

Men, all around me.
Playing a game where they think
They make the rules.
They say: "Trust me,
Love me, have faith in me."
But they don't say:
"And when I'm through,
I'll abuse & use you
& leave you alone."

Men, no conscience,
No compassion,
No Thanks!

A. Brent Earls

The Different

As the world's People get Colder.
The Heat rises.
A man, woman and child, falls behind
not being able to behave coldly.
These people are considered The Different.
Some call them helpless and weak.
Some call them other harsh names.
The Different are part of creation, this World.
People of this world who call themselves 'Normal'
Are very helpless when it comes to under standing
The Different.
Some of the world's people will bring in
modern thought and modern facilities
In order to hide, close out and forget The Different.
The Different are part of the world
and their mission is to be accepted
by you and me and to celebrate
Our Difference.

D. Kcay-Davis

To Jimmy

Remember the days in the yard,
In the sunshine, never alone?
We shared our thoughts and dreams,
And our memories of home.

With never an embrace nor hug,
That could lead to a kiss,
I still close my eyes at night,
Thinking of us like this.

But we *will* be together again,
On the free side of the wall.
Then we *will* tell all the cops,
Kiss our asses, one and all!

K.A.

The Irony of Oppression

I met a man in chains one day
Who said that's how he'd rather stay.
But I loosed his chains despite his woes
And he punched me in the nose.
"Friend," said I, "I'll set you free!"
He said: "Depart, you S.O.B.!"
Determined still I asked his reason.
Then he kicked me in my nether region.
So I duly left him to his chains
Lest I feel his cruel refrains.
It just goes to show that with fetters nil
Some people want their oppression still.

John L. Indo

Grass

Watching the grass grow . . .
It does, you know.
And it *can* be seen!
It doesn't grow fast,
And it's greenness won't last,
But it grows just the same.
It's wild; it's not tame!
It's mean and it's hateful,
And it never seems grateful
For the care you bestow,
Or the kindness you show,
When you plant its small seeds
Or relieve it of weeds.
It just doesn't care
That you're losing your hair
'Cause you're waging a war
With the crabgrass next door.
Yes, it takes you for granted
Once it finds out it's planted.
And, you know, it just occurred to me . . .
Grass is a lot like people.

Ted C. Cole

My Love

I'd fuck you standing
I'd fuck you lying
While on a plane
I'd fuck you flying
If you died
You wouldn't be forgotten
I'd dig you up and
Fuck you rotten.
If you rotted away and
Couldn't be found
For old times sake
I'd fuck the ground!

C.A. Bettis



"Still I'll Rise"

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my gayness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my cell room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
I'll rise, you know, I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by soulful cries?

Again does my gayness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin in this prison yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your lies,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise,
and rise,
and rise.

Dwayne Matthews

I Look Down

I look down through my life
its troubles and its strife
and wonder how I've come so far
without defeat, without a scar.

Through my past I still can see
how life has been so good to me.
Another breath I still can take,
a laugh or two I still can make.

Thoughts to share, touch to care;
but still there's much
I fail to see;
the things withheld
within me.

James Bayer

Brother Life: A Martyr

Brother Life was
his nick-name,
He joined the N.L.
Movement in behalf
of the little man.

Everybody who knew
him very well,
will attest that
Brother Life wasn't an inch for
sale.

He was bold and
disciplined,
outspoken and
dedicated,
he was one of our ablest
representatives
who refuse to be
domesticated.

He was brutally slain
back in 1973,
by two of his
foes,
shortly after
he storm with
burning rage through
Walnut I door.

His supreme aim
was to free a
"gal-boy" slave,
who was being held
in bondage by two blood
braves.

Although we lost
him in that bloody and
daring battle,
his spirit live on forever
and that's no tattle.

Albert Chui Clark

[*"Walnut I" is the name of
a cell block at Angola Prison.*]

Feelings — Emotions

Is it okay to feel afraid
because I am — sometimes
afraid of taking a chance,
afraid of losing you,
of winning you,
loving too little,
too much.

Lloyd McCob



These poems and graphics are by lesbian and gay prisoners who read GCN weekly. They are part of a dialogue the Prisoner Project fantasizes helping to happen between lesbians and gay men who are on different sides of the walls and who have had radically different amounts of experience with how our legal/"justice" system works; in fact, not only in theory. If these help put flesh and character on some over-simplified stereotypes of prisoners and the "justice business," the dialogue will move along. (For more such flesh, see the "Prisoners Seeking Friends" space for addresses of these people and others.)

Hug-a-Hunk: Caress a Spirit

By Clark Henley

For the recent gay festival in Los Angeles, the Shanti Foundation decided to try a "Hug-a-Hunk" Booth. Would people be willing to publicly admit that they wanted to hug a hunk? Or would people rather peek at hunks posed gloriously under the spotlight in the corner of a bar? Perhaps we should try a "Peek-at-a-Hunk" Booth?

We asked around and the response was opinionated: "Darling, you've got to be kidding! I'm learning how to be vulnerable, but not *that* vulnerable...those queens are just hiding behind those muscles. How am I supposed to cut through all their attitude? With a machete? It takes me several large festive beverages before I have the nerve to even think about making eye contact. God forbid I should actually have to let on that I'm interested. What if I pay for my hug and the hunk says, 'Forget it!' Will you be providing a registered nurse in case I pass out or get carsick? What about a therapist? Or a strait-jacket? I have feelings, too, yuh know."

We polled some of West Hollywood's more legendary hunks and their response was equally damp: "Darling, you've got to be kidding! I'm learning how to be vulnerable, but not *that* vulnerable.... I didn't build up all this body armor for nothing. Couldn't I just be adored from afar? And how am I supposed to cut through all their attitude? Hey, I don't read, okay? I watch "Dynasty." I admit it. Worse things have happened. What if no one wants to hug me? Will you be providing a nurse in case I drop dead? I have feelings, too, yuh know."

It was clearly a match made in

gay heaven. All we had to do was ban extremely large margaritas, bullet-proof sunglasses, and pray that the nurse was on time.

We also wrote the following instructions in the hopes that the huggers and the hugges might relax and have fun. Luckily, a miracle occurred in the form of Chip, a man born to hug. Fifteen-hundred hugges wandered away in a satisfied daze having received one of his extraordinary hugs.

How to Hug

Hugging is extremely easy, unless you happen to come from a family that frowned upon expressing emotions. And vulnerability was a no-no. Many of us were told that all forms of touching were yucky, and we unfortunately believed it. Beware: it is extremely difficult to hug without touching. Yet some of us have inadvertently perfected this hug. Let's examine it.

How to Hug Without Touching

1. Do *not* establish eye contact. This could be revealing. Or embarrassing. Your hugging partner might figure out that you intend to hug him. And say "No." Dart quickly at the potential huggie, just like in the Clairol commercial where the two sexist stereotypes race toward each other and collide head-on during a sunset. Not only can you catch your partner mentally off guard, you'll also catch him physically off guard. Sweeping someone literally off his feet is a great way to abruptly end a hug even before you have time to finish a split infinitive.

2. Do *not* touch the other person. Well, as little possible. Hold the huggie at arms' length by grasping his shoulders with your hands. Do not bend your elbows. Keep your feet as far away from your partner as possible. Lean forward and

think about pulling away before you even get there. Bounce off his torso.

3. Do *not* touch heads. Heads are extremely vulnerable and should never be too close to anyone else's. Hold your head as far away from your partner as possible. If your ears accidentally touched, you might hear each other's thoughts. This would be hideous.

4. Do *not* breathe. The other person might notice that you are alive.

Well, there you have it — the perfectly invulnerable hug. If this becomes too lonely, or perhaps you find yourself hiding under your bed, you might want to try hugging with touching.

It's easy: pretend that inside of your body lives a spirit. For fun, pretend it is made out of love. During a hug, pretend two spirits are hugging.

How to Hug and Touch

1. Look into the other person's eyes. You don't have to say anything. You can smile if you want to but you don't have to. Just look at the other person, and think, "Hello." You can tell if it's time for a hug if your partner is looking into your eyes and thinking, "Hello."

2. Touch the other person. Many people think that hugging is what happens right before sex. This has ruined many good hugs. Gently put your arms around your partner. Get comfortable. If you are standing on his foot, you may want to move it. If your partner's hair is up your nose, you may wish to take it out rather than spending the rest of the hug trying to suppress a sneeze. The idea is to stop worrying about your bodies.

3. Hold your heads next to each other. Listen quietly to each other's minds. At first there will be

Continued on page 12

ARTcetera Auction for AIDS



Steven Trefonides

Art and art-related items with a total value of \$125,000 will be on the auction block at Boston City Hall Saturday evening, September 21. The event, "Artcetera '85," will be the Boston area's largest fundraiser thus far in the fight against AIDS.

The Artcetera '85 committee includes (pictured above from left to right): Patrick Roll, Mike Ward, Harry Collings, Bill Hodgins, Liz Page, Pam Hoyle, Michael Dowling, Peter Cassels, Bill Feldkanp, Bob Griffith, David Latham, Larry Kessler and Dan Moon (not pictured).

AIDS will also be the topic of a two-hour news special on Boston's local NBC affiliate WBZ-TV (Channel 4). Produced by WBZ in cooperation with KPIX in San Francisco, the program, "Our Worst Fear: The AIDS Epidemic," will include interviews with gay and straight people with AIDS, government and health officials, and other concerned individuals. The interviews will be interspersed with a KPIX documentary on AIDS and a live question and answer session.

The program will air in Boston on Sunday, September 15, from 9 to 11 p.m. Other Group W television stations in Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco, and Pittsburgh will also air the program in the near future.

GCN GAY AND LESBIAN PRISONER PROJECT

We send free papers, books (when they are donated and money for postage is available), and run free penpal ads. (There's sometimes a long waiting list because of limited space.) As we get more volunteers we'll be looking for other ways to make the connections between lesbians and gay men behind bars and those of us on the outside. If you can help with your time or a contribution of mainly gay paperbacks or of money, we are at 167 Tremont, Boston, MA 02111. THANKS!

My name is Jenniter. I'm a pre-op TS, 22, soon to be released. Can you help me find a job and place to live. Put me in my place if you can. You may end up wearing panties if you fail to dominate Jenniter, queen of leather and lace! (smile) Jack LeTAVISH, 8281463, Box 500, Elmira NY 14902

I am a pre-op female impersonator, in for a non-violent crime (sec. degree burglary). I have served more than my time due to having tried to start a gay club in here. I need some companionship. Please get to know me. Nicki RETTINGER, 287570 (A-31-5W), Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362

TEXAS Prisoners!

If you're on female hormones, please write Mike/GCN (so he can write me) because I am suing TDC and need info about how they are treating other inmates. Send name to Mike/GCN, 167 Tremont, Boston MA 02111.

Info music, no hangups regarding sex, full of fun, bright and looking for some good conversation. William BRUMBLEY, EF-113285 (L4-2/2), Redsville GA 3049

I enjoy easy listening music, design and make clothing, love cooking and others eating it, tennis, and the broad outdoors, but am very much the little homemaker. I'm not out for intimate relationships now, prison is not the place. If you're interested let's be friends. Timothy XOBEL, 48754, 2615 State St, Salem OR 97311

S.P. LOVES G.D. (I)

I'm a transsexual and would love to meet many friends from anywhere (and anywhere). I'm a transsexual and would love to meet many friends from anywhere (and anywhere). I'm a transsexual and would love to meet many friends from anywhere (and anywhere).

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Limited amt of free PENPAL AD space for prisoners in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, W. Virginia & Penn. (only) Send short ads to: Baltimore Gay Paper, Prisoner Ad, Box 22575, Baltimore MD 21203. (Please don't send personal letters or requests because we don't have the money and people to respond.)



Jamaican prisoner would like to correspond with fun, honest and REAL individuals who are not bothered with being REAL. [GCN note: Delonco has a fabulous story coming up in the next issue of Fog Rag about his hustling days.] Delonco KCAY, 84A2572, 135 State St., Auburn NY 13024

I am truly burdened with all the negative remarks I receive here everyday. This is why I am hoping you can help me find my type of people. We are the only ones that can understand our problems. I am seeking to write to someone caring and understanding of being gay that has not forgotten the values and problems in life. Randall TRENT, 090194 (Q-wing, 2-E-2), Box 747, Starke FL 32091

I consider myself to be very mature and I use common sense with a yearning for general knowledge in all areas possible. But I still need a true friend because a friend will like and accept another for who he is. And with a friend would lighten and warm your life. Freddie McARLANE, 3611, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360

I'm getting your newspaper and it really makes my day. I'm a transsexual and would love to meet many friends from anywhere (and anywhere). I'm a transsexual and would love to meet many friends from anywhere (and anywhere).

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El Reno, OK 73036

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Auburn NY 13024
A. Brent Earls
Box 600 — 44604
Canon City, CO 81212

Dwayne Matthews
Box 149 — 83A6307
Attica, NY 14011

Vicki Simmons
322889 (G-1) Rt 4 Box 800
Gatesville, TX 76528

Ted C. Cole
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Lovelady, TX 75851

Frank Randall
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Ft Madison, IA 52627

Hank Purcell
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Richard Lindhorst
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Steven Lee Smith
PO Box 100
Somers, CT 06071

Kricket
(apologies for not keeping
your address attached to
your great graphic)

Christopher Badger
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Delmont, NJ 08314

Robert Owen Scott Jr.
624655 Box 900 Cedar
Shelton, WA 98584

David Jude Leaverton
Box 2 — 35705
Lansing, KS 66043



My hobbies include reading, writing, running, exercise, sports. My interest lies in quiet evenings at home with someone special. I have a release date in Dec. 86, just the right amount of time to get to know each other if you're not in a hurry. Fred NEELY, 053408 (MB 584) Box 158, Lowell, FL 32663

Down for 3-5 more years. Would like to correspond with anyone sincere. I like camping, water skiing, dancing, nice clothes, cooking and I am a hair dresser and love SEX. Also am somewhat old fashioned (one to one relationships). Don receive mail from other prisoners. Harry A. BISHOP, 6792 Box 2, Lansing, KS 66043

AM 55. Bright & very looking for a long lasting love. There is nothing anymore? Send me a letter. I will return the right stuff. Looking for you out there. Danny D., 7-761, Box 45627, Lansing, KS 66043



TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist)



I'm Italian, pretty and would like to hear from all you coming down to earth butches. Let me see how many other butches are really interested in this for real. Andy KIMBLE, PO Box 535, Jessup, MD 20794

I'm 28, enjoy music, play guitar, poetry, reading, and would like to hear from anyone. Bonnie PLOTNER, W-18362 (BB1145), Frontera CA 91720.

I am a bisexual fem seeking friends and penpals for a few laughs to help make this time go by. Please send picture if possible. Pauline HASSETT, Box 99, Framingham MA 01701.

Gay Prisoners' Poetry Book

We need you poetry and artwork that captures a feeling behind the walls. It could be a feeling of love, hope or courage that shows the strength of the gay spirit. What we want is the reality that most of us, despite our oppression, remain steadfast and strong! Send to: Steven L. Smith, Ed., GPP, L.Bilton Rd, Somers CT 06071.



New Lesbian Video

Talking Sex in Long-Term Relationships

By Janice Irvine

Okay, we've heard enough wise-cracks that any video about sex in long-term lesbian relationships would be a silent film. Yet the snickers and jokes that accompanied announcements of the Cambridge premiere of *Making It Last: Sexuality in Long-Term Lesbian Relationships* were definitely gallows humor and not a lack of interest or concern. Approximately 130 of us crammed into the small basement of New Words Bookstore on a muggy September 6 to view the video and participate afterwards in what, at moments, felt like a gigantic CR group.

The impetus to create *Making It Last* grew out of concerns that producer Catherine Russo felt about her own seven-year relationship. Russo, a videographer and founder of New England Women's Network cable programming, worked on the video for a year and filmed eight hours of material to achieve the final 46-minute version.

Making It Last spans four topics: how lesbians decide that their relationship is long-term, the frequency of sex in long-term relationships, sexual problems that arise over the years, and how women deal with them. Several couples, two single women, and two lesbian sex therapists addressed these issues about, as one woman asked, "What happens after the 500th orgasm?"

Sex discussions in the lesbian community are just beginning. While we might feel comfortable talking on an abstract level about the "sex debates," most of us begin to squirm when the conver-

sation rolls around to more personal practices. It's even more difficult to discuss the sex that is or isn't happening in a relationship where the honeymoon phase is but a dim memory. There are moments in *Making It Last* that remind us just how tentative we are — personally and as a community — about sex.

The first of these moments came in the initial introduction to the couples. Russo, who narrates the video, says she would like us to meet "...the brave souls who were willing to be on this tape." This evoked a chuckle of appreciation from the audience, yet I wish there had been another way to acknowledge the courage of the

whether we want to "piss on our lover" or cuddle all night. "Whatever our sexuality is, wherever it's at, that's okay," she says.

Much of the strength of *Making It Last* lies in the wit and vulnerability with which the women talk to us and to each other about their experiences. And those of us who are long-term relationship survivors can identify with much of what is said. Ellen, for example, describes how she knew she was finally in it for the long haul with Susan when she stopped saying during every fight, "I can't be in a relationship with someone who does that." Demita enthuses about the first blush of intense sex

"But I thought you liked that."

participants. That comment seemed to reinforce the taboo about discussing sex by creating an ambiance of tension that what we were about to see was so controversial and scary that almost no one was brave enough to do it. In fact, Russo did have difficulty finding women to be in the film, yet the film would have created more permission and openness without this implication.

The second instance that illustrates our tentativeness about sexuality was precisely about permission-giving. Russo tells us that she wants to begin with a quote from therapist Margie Nichols, "...so that you don't start feeling awful about your own sexuality." And Nichols proceeds to assure us that we're fine

in a new relationship. But then, she concludes, "reality sets in." We also get a chance to see a few classic "Newlywed Game" moments, as when one woman describes something she doesn't like sexually and her lover blurts, "But I thought you liked that. In fact, you complained when I didn't do it last time." Sometimes the humor emerges from a collective nerve being touched, for example, when Margie Nichols quips, "Sometimes I think anything longer than two months is a long-term relationship for a lesbian."

The humor does not mask the very real and painful difficulties that can develop around sex when one is in a long-term relationship, however. Therapist Bonnie Engelhardt notes, "It is a stressful

issue to be a woman in our society today and to be a lesbian." The women in *Making It Last* discuss a range of issues that have affected their sexuality: histories of incest and child abuse; class differences; race differences; substance abuse. Engelhardt believes that many of these issues only surface over the course of many years when a deeper level of intimacy has been achieved.

Some of the complexities of these differences and similarities were well illustrated by Eleanor, describing how her sex life was affected when she began to come to terms with what it meant for her as a black woman to be lovers with a white woman. Demita responded that although she had been lovers with other Black women, she experienced difficulties with them around class differences. "Commonality makes for some ease, but it is short-lived," she said.

The fourth section of the video, which addresses ways in which lesbians deal with their sexual problems, is a bit scanty. Russo is hardly to be criticized, however, for not providing the definitive solution to some very thorny problems. There's a hilarious scene where Ellen and Susan innocently comment that they live their sex life by doing some role-playing. A cameraperson asks, "Like what?" and after a fleeting moment of shyness, they wax enthusiastic: asexual librarian meets hooker; stood-up woman on park bench gets picked up by experienced lesbian; inexperienced adolescent gets seduced by experienced lesbian, etc. "We know no boun-

daries," Susan says.

It is ironic, given that some feminists in Cambridge are trying to enact anti-pornography legislation in the city this fall, but Susan pleads for lesbians to produce more pornography. She describes how she and Ellen read pornography to each other, but that it's demoralizing to be caught up short by a racist or homophobic scene in the middle. She makes a powerful statement about our need for good porn to excite and play with each other. "All you lesbians out there — get to work," she urges.

There are shortcomings to *Making It Last*. Some of the sequences don't logically follow each other and would benefit from more context. And there was very little graphic discussion of sexual behavior. One woman talks about her difficulty in licking her lover's clitoris, but there is little else in the video to support or equal this level of risk-taking.

These are minor criticisms, however, for a project which pioneers in uncharted territory. Russo has made a major contribution to the new media on lesbian sexuality. And she has gotten us talking about sex. One suspects that the post-video discussion, which for many of us has continued in cafes and kitchens all over town, has extended even further into many bedrooms.

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Providence City Council

Continued from page 1

the Alliance conducted a letter-writing campaign in local bars and among its membership. Marilyn Hines, co-chair of the Alliance, noted, "The local gay community really rallied around the ordinance. Our work showed us that gay people in Providence will come out in support when their rights are involved."

Lesbian and gay activists received some encouragement when Republican Governor Edward DiPrete issued an executive order on August 5 banning anti-gay discrimination in state employment. This made Rhode Island the ninth state in the U.S. with some form of statewide protection for lesbians and gay men. The order came in response to lobbying efforts on the part of the Alliance.

The public debate on the ordinance culminated in a public hearing on September 3, where supporters and opponents of the ordinance packed the city council chamber for over five hours of heated testimony.

Testimony against the ordinance came primarily from Protestant and Catholic fundamentalist clergy and their followers. Opponents testified that the ordinance threatened the "Judeo-Christian tradition" and "the traditional family" on which "our American society" is based. Several opponents also testified that sexual orientation could be interpreted to include voyeurism and child abuse, and that the ordinance could provide "refuge for peeping Toms and child molesters." Others warned the ordinance would make Providence "the San Francisco of the East" and would encourage the spread of AIDS.

Support for the ordinance focused on the protection of minorities from unjust discrimination and "the tyranny of the majority," and stressed the importance of separation of church and state. The Alliance mobilized medical and legal professionals to testify that the ordinance would have no impact on the incidence of AIDS, nor on existing laws against voyeurism or child abuse. Supporters included elected and appointed officials, religious leaders, professionals, students and working people.

Meanwhile, Joseph Paolino, Jr., mayor of Providence, and city councilors opposed to gay and lesbian rights maneuvered behind the scenes to crush the sexual orientation clause. Several days before the September 5 vote, Paolino, who had made mild public statements for the sexual orientation provision, met with Councilor Farmer. Farmer said Paolino made "disgusting sexual jokes," used "crass gestures," and suggested that Farmer amend the ordinance to exempt those "with moral objections to homosexuality" from its provisions. Farmer refused.

The public hearings appeared to have little effect on the city council's actions. Hines observed, "The mayor and our opponents on the city council were against us from the beginning. The public hearings were a hoax. It showed us we can out-number and out-testify the opposition and it won't matter."

In future political efforts, Hines emphasized, "We can't continue to base our strategy on rational arguments [alone]. What we need is political clout. We have

to work against the Glavins of the world and show them that we can defeat them."

Several activists speculated that the ordinance might have passed with the sexual orientation provision, if the Alliance had made an effort to build coalitions with other groups facing discrimination, especially women and people of color. While the Alliance has yet to make significant coalition-building efforts, Hines agreed that such coalitions could prove useful in the future. Hines concluded, "We have to make sure that public officials know we are not going away because of this vote."

Hug-a-Hunk

Continued from page 10

lots of static. Then there will be silence. When two minds quiet down, you can feel your spirits slow-dancing together.

4. Breathe. It is difficult to hug, let alone live, without breathing. So breathe. When spirits hug, they breathe together as one. You don't need to understand this in order to do it. Just enjoy it.

Congratulations!

Hugging is a key for good health. People have reported that claustrophobia in crowded elevators has been significantly reduced while hugging between floors. The next time you find yourself holding your breath and praying that the elevator doesn't break down, take a deep breath, reach out and hug someone. Even strangers. You'll be glad you did. And so will they.

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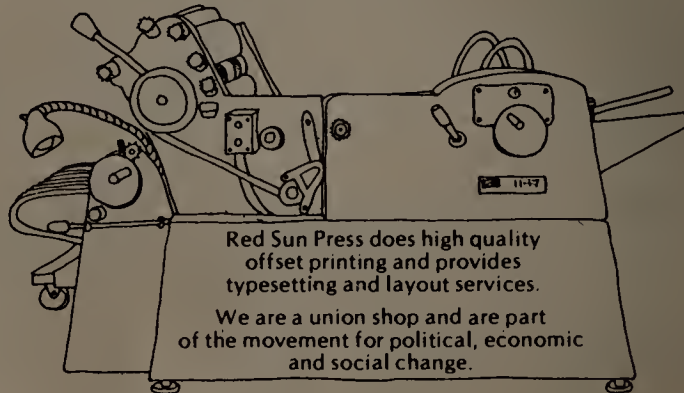
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GM, 28, prof, quiet seeks resp. gm for neat, spaces, sunny pondside apt. 2 car garage, w/d, d/d, microwv, frpl. No smoke/pets. Near to the T, Arboretum. \$387 + .Leave message. 524-0389. (11)

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GM shr 2 bdrm 1 fam house nr Inman Square Camb. Conv. to T. Piano, backyard, patio. Prefer veg/natural food oriented. \$365 includes util. Call Joe 491-5122

L grad student, 33, seeks older, clean, non-smoker for 2 br apt. in JP. \$150 + approx. \$50 utils. Have cat, w/d. Call 522-6063. (11)

WATERTOWN APT.

GM prof seeks neat resp. gm to share 6 room, 2 bdrm apt. in Watertown, available 10/1. Parking for 1 car, near T, near pike, d/d, w/w carp, fr porch. \$325 month+ utils + gas heat. Must see to believe. Call Curtis 9-5 at 492-6000 ext. 262 or after 7pm at 924-3626. (11)

2 LF's seek LF for 3 bedroom Watertown apt. Non-smoker; parking; on Harvard bus line. For october 1. \$225+. Call 923-0609. (11)

2 LF's seek 1 LF to share sunny 3rd floor apt. in Somerville. No smoking, no pets. \$200+ 1/3 utilities + sec. Available now! Call 628-2586. (10)

L, 38, seeks roommate for Apt. on Som/Medford line. Non-smoker; pets neg. Rent \$200 + util. Call 628-7744 after 6pm. Available immediately. (11)

2 LF's seek dependable non-smoking lf 24+ for independent household on Som/Camb line. \$185+ utils. Sec. dep. No pets. Available Oct. 1. Call 492-7653 eves before 10. (11)

2 LF's seek 3rd for W. Somerville apt. w/porches, near T. \$200+. No indoor smoking. Call 628-6007 - if you get the tape please leave message. (11)

JAMAICA PLAIN

4 GW's seek 5th for large room in extra large Victorian house. Near T and JP Licks. Wash/dry, back deck, front yard, semi-coop, semi-veg. \$224+ utils. Available now. Call 524-0421 early or late. (11)

1 LF, 40, seeks 2 LF's 25+ to share spacious, sportive, spiritual household in Brookline, near T. Min drugs/alc. Rent \$220/month + util + pkg. Call 232-9089. Jasmine (10)

W25+ to share Beaut 7rm farmh's in Rosl near Arb. Sun Trees Skylights. 2rms are yours. No drugs, dogs. Cat ok. \$300. I'm 32, pianist. 327-3367 Dovidia.

ROOMMATE WANTED

LF, late twenties or older for lovely 2BR apt. in Fields Corner, Dorchester. I am LF, 29 with friendly dog & elderly cat. Seek quiet, responsible, progressive person who likes animals & doesn't smoke. Pet negotiable. \$225+. Good landlords. Quiet street. 522-8156. Keep trying! Available after Oct. 1. (11)

HOUSEMATES

SHARE COMFY NATICK HOME

We're looking for 2 lf's or a mom and a child to join our home. 25+, clean, responsible, non-smoker. No drugs/alcohol. No more pets (cats). Large yard, garden, woodstove, w/d, lake. Quiet neighborhood, close to Pike, Rte. 9, commuter rail. Large room \$275+util/ small room \$200+utils. Call 655-8618 eves. (10)

HOUSING WANTED

DESPERATE!

LF, 28, & cat seek housing by Nov. 1st. Can pay up to \$200. Call Chris 588-2042. October 1st ok too. (11)

A ROOM WITH A VIEW?

I've been living alone in a basement apt; it's dark + lonely. I need a new place to live. I'd be a great roomie. I have a sense of humor, can get along with anyone and best of all I don't smoke. Call 321-3434. Please leave message. (11)

FRAMINGHAM-WEST SUBURBS

Prof gm, 31, career committed, seeks shared housing Fram, west are up to \$500. Sincere, normal person 872-0016 eves or leave message. (11)

ROOM SOUGHT

Responsible young woman with secure full-time job seeks living situation with one other female. \$200-250 per month. Good sense of humor, independent, discreet. Seeks same. Call 497-1372 evenngs. Ask for Sally. Wanted for October 1st. (c)

RENTALS

SUBLEASE

Prof woman, 30+, quiet, independent and clean wanted for sublease of very lg 3rd floor of 2fl apt. Share same access, kitchen, bath with also quiet, clean prof woman. Call 625-7929. Leave message \$300 including utils (8)

APARTMENTS

Spacious first floor apt. in Apple Country - 10 minutes to I-495. Four rooms plus pantry. Lesbian owned/occupied. \$460+ utils. Avail 9/26. 368-0406. (12)

Dorchester 3 family owner occupied 6 room, 2 bdrm, recently renovated, new oil furn, kitchen, bath, no util. \$425/month. Lease, sec. & last month. Russo 282-1196. (13)

WEST MEDFORD APARTMENT

Sunny 4 rm 1st floor of lesbian household. Convenient to T on st. pkg. \$500 month no utilities, no dogs, cat maybe?!? Call Wessling & Beekman at 483-3685. (11)

SPORTS

SOCCER

All-Lesbian team entering second year seeks new players. Beginners & experienced players welcome. Call Rachel 628-9709 eves. (10)

RESORTS

WHITE MOUNTAIN MAGIC

Long, lazy days by the pool, cool nights by a crackling fire. Peace and privacy on 100 scenic acres. Charming guest rooms, gracious common areas. Pool and hiking at the Inn. Canoeing, antiquing, golf & tennis nearby. Make this a summer to remember. The Highlands Inn, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace & Judi inn keepers. (10)

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Explore Newport but let us harbor you with warm + friendly service. romantic Victorian decor. fresh flowers. cont brkfl. (401)849-7645. (13/1)

MAINE AT ITS BEST

BLUEBERRY COVE CAMP

IS OPEN TO October 15th. Cabins, camping, fish and vegetarian meals, organic garden, boats, beach, lodge with fireplace. Write HRC 35, Box 520 Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860. Tel. (207) 372-6353. (14)

GREENHOPE FARM

All woman guest house in VT's MT's. Horse-back riding on premises. Cozy private rooms. Fall foliage from mid-Sept. thru Oct. Veg. cuisine. Farm animals. Friendly and informal. (802) 533-7772 (11)

VERMONT GUESTHOUSE

Bed and cont. breakfast for Lesbians and Gay men in a country village house. 2 hours from Boston. Year round. Near lakes, hikes, skiing. Dave and Mike (802) 348-7840 (yr)

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Guest rooms and apartments. Centrally located. Hot tub, garden patio, cable tv, coffee. 104 Bradford St. Provincetown, MA 02657. Reservations: (617) 487-3232. Open year round. (yr)

CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Double rooms, coffee bt fireside, pkg. apts. also available. 1 block bay, open year round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St. P'town, MA 02657 (yr)

THE GREENHOUSE

Women's Guesthouse, cozy, comfortable, parking, cont. bkfst, off season rates. 18 Pearl St., Box 22 P'town MA 02657. (617)487-2270. (O)

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Openings. Group focus is on intimacy, gay identity, relationships. Individual therapy is also available. Sliding fee. Call Francis Giambrone at 628-6988 (yr)

Therapeutic massage using a variety of techniques. Nine years of experience. Call Naoimi at at 926-5626. Please use answering machine. Quick call back. (11)

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By discreet mail. 12 years supplying males fitting garments and counsel. Send long SASE for free information to PS CO Box 91 Wellesley MA 02181 (11)

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includes consultation
and completed resume.
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8pm-11pm

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76 Arlington St.
at Boston Park Plaza

TRADING POST

WOMEN'S BARTER NETWORK

Short on cash, but have lot's you'd like to trade for your needs? Women's Barter Network is a non-profit, nationwide barter referral system for women and women's organizations/businesses. Send SASE for details to: Women's Barter Network, Box 712, Wabash, Indiana 46992. (72)

ORGANIZATIONS

GAY LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN Calendar. Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11 Camb, MA 02238.

HETEROSEXISM, RACISM

Sexism, anti-Semitism, multicultural issues. Workshops by national consultants for your organization (municipal, professional, political educational) or business. Contact Equity Institute in Amherst, MA at (413)256-6902. Co-directors Carole Lanigan Johnson. J.D., and Joan Lester, Ed.D. (?)

N AMER MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOC

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD, PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (v. 13, no.22)

D.O.B.

Suppt orgnzn for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb, Old Bap Chr. Raps evry Tues, Thurs 8pm. Special raps for 35+; parents; yngr wmn; baby bmr; singles; coming-out; Issues forum. All 8pm. Mnthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (0)

LESBIANS

Are you Lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go? Come join us at BAGLY.

CALL Tony, 497-8282

(13/32)

"JOHNNY DIED TODAY..."

14 year old Joey will blow out his brains, Eddie will overdose & David will slash his wrists in the days to come. All because you're too scared to protect them. SASE for info, \$2 stamps 64 page newsletter, \$20 subsc/mbrshp. "REALITY INC.," PO Box 73, Paramus, NJ 07653. (0)

WORK-SURVIVAL GROUP

Ongoing support study group on work issues seeks new members with diverse experiences, backgrounds. Info: 623-2117 or 628-6007. (12)

TARHEEL ALUMNI & FRIENDS

CGLA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association at the University of North Carolina is forming a lesbian/gay alumni network and we'd like to know where you are. Help support the South's strongest gay student group. Contact CGLA Alumni Network, Box 39 Carolina Union 065A, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. (11)

WORKSHOPS

LIBANA AT BLUEBERRY COVE

Boston based women's group teaching Eastern European song, dance, drumming ect. Sept. 13-15th \$100 inclusive lodging and meals from organic garden. Call (207)372-6353. (11)

GCN SPECIALS

TYPISTS' FINGERS ARE THE BEST

Put your skills to work and cruise the GCN offices at the same time. For an hour or an afternoon. Work at home or elsewhere if you prefer. Drop-in basis, regular schedule or on call emergency status.(All volunteer, sorry to say.) Call Loie or Gordon at 426-4469. (c)

TRANSCRIBERS DO IT WITH THEIR EARS

We need you too.(See details in notice to typists above.) (c)

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE
(Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist)



HELP!!

Women in isolation area need class action suit against prison administration to get publicity! So we need copies to send around to newspapers and legal organizations. Can you copy 16 pages 20-25 times so we can have some to send out? Let us know if so at: Sonya Clark, 17400-AC, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040

I'm 22, have a child 5, love writing poetry, drawing, walks in the moonlight, and sunsets and sunrises, and would like to write to a woman (in prison or outside). Age and color have no importance. Paula McCauley, 971 Hwy K, Taycheedah WI 54935.

I am an old-fashioned butch, looking at 6-10 yers unless I pay restitution. It ain't much but a lot when inside these walls. Need penpals now and when I transfer to Texas. Letters with pics would be great, but will answer all. Lyn HAUBER, Box 99, Framingham MA 01701.



Prisoner Author (of 2 of our GCN "Freedom's Just" articles (on protesting the denial of his GCN and on "surviving" as a gay prisoner) looking for a penpal. Very sweet (according to at least one GCN Prls Proj member) and will write whoever gets into writing him, (especially interested in TV/TS scene). Please write: Robert Lee WHITE, 01835-045, Box 1000, Leavenworth KS 66048.

Lonely and downhearted. Would like to hear from someone that could help a gay (and Christian) man, who likes music, poetry, boats, stamp collecting and more) build a friendship and get a fresh start. Robert Owen SCOTT, 624655 Cedar A-8, PO Box 900, Shelton WA 98584.

Black and beautiful man from Albuquerque into pleasure, oral-anal sex, cuddling up near a fire with a bottle of chilled wine, and who likes to travel, would like to hear from some of you. Feldon JACKSON, 38553, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

DIVIDE AND CONQUER!!!
Prisoners, we want to do a piece on all the little ways they keep you separated from each other, not just with isolation, and rules about where you can and can't go etc. etc.; but with 'attitudes' (racism, anti-legal eagles, anti-gay, ageisms, etc. etc), all the ways they manipulate your minds to keep you from uniting against them. Let's hear from you. We'll send back a couple stamps if that's a problem. Thanks!

PRISONER POETRY BOOK!
Send your poetry, artwork & essays that show life and love in prison. They can be explicit. Payment is on publication. SASE for safe return. Steven L. Smith ed. GPP, L Bilton Rd, Somers CT 06071.

I'm 26 & fresh minded, I hope. Am destined to be here for some years to come so can't promise anything, but honesty & willingness to communicate. I'm basically interested in sharing & learning; a plethora of queries, have I, and few answers. Since I feel in constant metamorphosis perhaps what I seek is a mid-wife, so to speak. Hope someone is interested. Mason VANDIVER, 35361, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

Any TS/TV or gay wishing to correspond with an individual who likes to write to others behind bars to "enlighten" their confinement, then write me. I'm honest, caring, and versatile. Let's exchange thoughts and experiences! Chester Vinton HAAS, 327322A, Ellis I, Huntsville TX 77343
Please find enclosed a drawing that fits my description of prisons, like you asked for. I wish I had a copy of the book Animal Farm now that I'm an adult. I'm sure I'd gather more of the essence this time around. Thanks for the paper! Sure would be nice to have a penpal! Jack LeTAVISH, 82B1463, Box 500, Elmira NY 14902.

I am a lonely well-educated bisexual, who would like to meet someone in the world or prison. I am not demanding and honestly understanding. I am a mixed black and chinese male. ("Excuse my penmanship, but I wrote this letter by candlelight.") Tony M.A. HAYWOOD, 175334, Box 779, Marquette MI 49855.



I like swimming, tennis, boxing, playing chess, and being loved and loving someone. If you can, please help me find a friend. Thank you. Ernest Gene GUYTON, 177-038, PO Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Looking for penpals. Blacks especially, love good senses of humor, also like photos (but not necessary). Please write Edward PATTERSON, 31522-066, Box 7000, Texarkana, TX 75501.



CALENDAR

September 14 to September 22

14 saturday

Cambridge — GCN benefit showing of *Pink Triangles*, panel on homophobia to follow. 8PM, Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. \$4, advance; \$5, door. Info: 426-4469.

Cambridge — Lesbian Singles Games Night. Daughters of Bilits, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — Squat Theater's "Dreamland Burns" with Eszter Balint. Longwood Theater, Mass. College of Art, 364 Brookline Ave. 8PM. \$10/\$8.50 students. Through 9/21. Info: 232-1555, x504.

Provincetown — "Women Behind Bars," presented by Provincetown Offensive Theatre. Pilgrim House. 8PM. \$6. Continues till 10/4. Info: 617-487-0319.

Boston — Saints Dance for women. YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 8PM.

15 sunday

Boston — Boston Unitarian Universalist Gays & Lesbians present Carolyn McDade, feminist singer. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 7:30PM. Info: 449-7988.

Boston — Girls Night Out performing with Jess Leary and Friends. The Channel, 25 Necco St. 8PM. \$10, advance/\$12, door.



Girls' Night Out, September 15

Jamaica Plain — Disabled lesbians' potluck and discussion group. 2PM. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 524-1142.

North Chatham, NH — Blueberry Ridge Trail Day-Hike sponsored by the Chiltern Mt. Club. New & women members especially invited. Info: Michael, 522-9194.

Cambridge — Rosh Hashanah services with Am Tikva. Bring sweets, wine and juice for after the service. MIT rm. E25-111. 7:30PM. Info: Priscilla, 628-3973 or David, 623-3366.

Boston — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance night at Greystone's. 8 Kingston St. 8PM. \$5. Info: 745-3848.

Boston — Metropolitan Community Church of Boston: "Celebration of a New Ministry." Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.

16 monday

Boston — "Quest for the Killers: Vaccine on Trial, testing the effectiveness of the Hepatitis B vaccine. WGBH TV, Channel 2. 9PM.

17 tuesday

Boston — Fundraising Party for David Scondras: *Athenian Night* at Greystone's, 8 Kingston St. 7-10PM. \$5. Info: 266-0735, or 894-8363 after 6PM.

Cambridge — Sanchin Women's Karate & Self-Defense School fall classes begin. 595 Mass. Ave., Central Sq. Info: 628-3110.

Salem — *The Times of Harvey Milk* presented by North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance. Screening Rm., Meier Hall, Salem State College. 7PM. Free. Info: 745-3848.

Worcester — Metropolitan Community Church meeting for gays & lesbians in the Worcester area. 90 Holden St. 7PM. Info: 755-8974.

Boston — Gay & Lesbian Council of the Rainbow Coalition. 7:30PM. New members welcome. Info: Helen, 522-6283.

Cambridge — Women's Coming Out Support Group. Meets weekly. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9PM. Info: 354-8807.

18 wednesday

Boston — Boston Bisexual Women's Network discussion: "Labels: What Do They Mean Anyway?" Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 7PM. Info: 491-8334.

Cambridge — Child Assault Prevention Project informational meeting for new volunteers. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 7:30PM. Info: 524-4199.

19 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. Join the fun; read tomorrow's news today. 5-8PM for proofing, 7:30-midnight for lay-out. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — "Gay Boston" on Cable TV. Access Channel A3. 8PM.

Dorchester — Dorchester GALA monthly meeting. Codman Square Public Library, 690 Washington St. 7PM. Info: Ed, 288-4367 or Diane, 288-9155.

Cambridge — "After Night Comes the Day," a Soviet film of war & resistance. Carpenter Center, Harvard University. 7PM. \$5/\$4 seniors & students. Also 9/26. Info: 547-1944.

Cambridge — Drop-in discussion group for women with incest histories — topic "Secrets." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30PM. Info: 492-1818.

Boston — Mass. Lesbian & Gay Bar Assn. Quarterly Meeting. Speakers: Steve Rosenfeld and Paul Garrity. Appalachian Mtn. Club, Cabot Aud., 3 Joy St. 5:30 social hour, 6:30 business, 7PM program.

Cambridge — Marea Gordett, poet, and Alice Lichtenstein, playwright, reading at New Words, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 7:30PM. \$2 donation. Info: 876-5310.

20 friday

Boston — GCN's VOLUNTEER NIGHT: come help send the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments & good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") To be let in, buzz GCN's intercom outside the street entrance. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — Hunter Davis, pop/folk feminist, to perform. Modern Times Cafe, Hampshire St. Info: 354-8371.

Cambridge — Donna — *Women in Revolt*, Italian feminist film. Angry Arts, YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. \$2.75. Also Sat. & Sun. Info: 625-9279.

Pittsfield — Take Back the Night Rally. Berkshire County Courthouse, Park Square. 7PM. Sign-interpreted. Followed by Women's Candlelight March, wheelchair accessible route. Info: (413) 499-2425.



Keith Vacha, September 20

Boston — Keith Vacha, author of *Quiet Fire*, booksigning party. Glad Day Bookstore, 43 Winter St. 4:30-6:30PM.

21 saturday

Boston — "ARTcetera '85" art auction to benefit the AIDS Action Committee. Boston City Hall. Info: 536-7733.

Dorchester — Dorchester GALA Flea Market & Bottle Drive. 9AM-4PM. Info: Ed, 288-4367 or Diane, 288-9155.

Boston — Edmund White reading & booksigning for his new book, *Caracole*. Glad Day Bookshop, 43 Winter St. 4:30-6:30PM, booksigning. 8PM, reading. Info: 542-0144.

Boston — AIDS: The Social Implications and the Emotional Impact — panels, movie, discussion. Arlington St. Church. 11AM-5PM. \$5. Info: Boston Institute for Social Therapy and Research, 524-7710.

Boston — March & Rally to Stop the Bombing in El Salvador. Assemble: Copley Square, noon (march to Boston Common). Info: CASA, 492-8699.

Boston — Interview with Judy Small, Australian singer/songwriter on Something About the Women. WMFO 91.5 FM. 10AM-2PM.

Cambridge — Equinox Dance with Amethyst Women. 11 Garden St., First Church Congregational. 9PM-1AM. \$4 more/less. Drug-/alcohol-free. Childcare available.

Boston — Lesbian/Gay Alliance of Boston Univ. Dance. George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Ave. 9PM-1AM. \$2 students, \$3 general. Info: 353-9804.

Cambridge — Jennifer Justice: "Just A Simple Storytelling." Rising Phoenix Studio, 244 Columbia St. 8PM. \$5. Info: 776-4514.

22 sunday

Boston — Boston Gay Men's Chorus benefit brunch at the Downtown Cafe, 12 LaGrange St. Noon-3PM. \$5. Info: 482-6983.

Holliston — Tri-County Association Steering Committee meeting. 7PM. All welcome. Info: 429-6593.

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian/Gay Neighbors of J.P. potluck supper. First Church Hall (Eliot and Centre Sts.) Bring food & non-alcoholic beverage. Newcomers welcome. Info: 522-3894.

Brighton — Brookline/Brighton/Allston gays & lesbians (BBANGL) last summer picnic potluck. City View Park, Summit Ave. Noon. Info: Ross, 787-3775.

Waltham — Suburban lesbian & gay dinner and discussion. Open to all. 6PM. Info: Mark, 893-8717.

Cambridge — Cambridge GALA monthly potluck supper. Info: Lynn, 876-4141.

note this!

Fabiola by Eduardo Machado. Directed by James Hammerstein. At Theater for the New City, 162 Second Ave., New York City. Through Sept. 22.

Eduardo Machado's *Floating Islands Trilogy* follows the fortunes of the upper-middle-class Marquez family from 1920s Cuba to present-day exile in the United States. The first and last plays of the trilogy were produced in New York (by Ensemble Studio Theater) in 1983 and 1984; *Fabiola* now fills in the crucial years 1955-67, showing the family's initial support of Castro, their gradual disillusionment after the Revolution, and their ultimate departure for the United States.

Machado sees the Marquez family as representatives of a culture which is trapped in increasingly meaningless ritual. Like Chekhov's landowners — the comparison is inescapable — these people are intermittently aware of their uselessness, yet remain powerless to make fundamental changes in their lives. The title character, wife of the family's eldest son, Pedro, is dead before the play begins, and Machado probably wants us to see her as a symbol of a society that has frozen itself in time: *Fabiola's* skin is reported to be "intact" when her coffin is opened.

If this symbolism is too nebulous to be convincing, many of the play's scenes and characters are funny and affecting. Machado writes about the family with knowledge, sympathy and humor: while he clearly feels the outrage and deep pain of their forced departure from their homeland, he is also keenly aware of the unthinking cruelty and blindness of privilege. Like Chekhov, Machado can see both comic and tragic dimensions to the situation; unlike his great predecessor, however, he doesn't always avoid melodrama or soap opera.

One of the most interesting, if partially unrealized, elements in the play is the intense love affair between Pedro and his younger brother, Osvaldo. (The latter's name is a clear reference to Ibsen's *Ghosts*, although it's Pedro who actually quotes from that play.) When Osvaldo, who is both drawn to and repelled by his brother, finally leaves for North America with his wife, Sonia, Pedro slips further and further into torpor and alcoholism, literally isolating himself in the upstairs "Honeymoon Suite" where he and Osvaldo have made love. As the last family members prepare to leave for the U.S., he kills himself.

Despite the sensationalist sound of this in synopsis, the scenes between the brothers are sensitively handled — and blessedly free from self-censorship. The problem is that the character of Pedro is badly underwritten: we don't know enough about him, or see him in relation to the other members of his family often enough, to figure out what's fueling his self-destructiveness. There's clearly an important story to be told about the societal pressures on the eldest son of a bourgeois family in a macho culture, but Machado has backed off from this challenge, and Pedro remains just a sketch; incredibly, he and his father never even have a scene together.

At the first performance, the production had not yet settled in: James Hammerstein's direction seemed sluggish and insufficiently varied in pace, and the performers were clearly tense. There were potentially excellent performances from Ivonne Coll as the family matriarch, Adriana Sananes (Sonia), Wanda De Jesus (Sara) and especially an actress named Sol (Conchita). The men have less satisfactory material to work with; I did enjoy John Capodice as Alfredo, the father. Donald Eastman's set made good use of the architecture of the performance space, and Deborah Shaw's costumes seemed just right.

— Nicholas Deutsch

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

BUSINESS GUIDE

BOSTON-AREA GAY/LESBIAN BUSINESS GUIDE

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Watertown Sq., Ma
926-4289

GYMS

BODYWORKS GYM FOR
WOMEN
53 River Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
576-1493

INSURANCE

DAVID L. COLLINS, CLU
Suite 830
50 Congress St.
Boston, Ma. 02109
1-800-352-3185

KUNEVICH & LAU
Insurance Agency
241 Washington St.
Brookline, MA 02146
731-1015

MARGARET M. LAPRE
INSURANCE
697 Washington St.
Brookline, MA 02146
277-8187

ROGERS & DINIS
INSURANCE
404 Mass Av.
Arlington, MA 02174
643-3040

LAWYERS

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
Lawyer Referral Service
227-7008
M-F 1-5 p.m.

MEDICAL/COUNSELING

ARADIA COUNSELING FOR
WOMEN
520 Commonwealth Av.
Kenmore Sq.
Boston, MA 02115
247-4861

BACK BAY COUNSELING
DENNIS IADAROLA
25 Huntington Av.
Boston, MA 02116
739-7860

COUNSELING ASSOCIATES
23 East Main St.
Westborough, MA 01581
366-8576

FRANCIS CIAMBRONE,
MA Counseling
110 Orchard St.
Somerville Ma. 02144
628-6988

FENWAY COMMUNITY

HEALTH CENTER
16 Haviland Street
Boston, MA 02115
267-7573

GAY AND LESBIAN-
COUNSELING SERVICE
600 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02111
Room 219
542-5188

MASS BAY COUNSELING
ASSOCIATES
25 Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02116
739-7832

DR. KENNETH H. ORTH
Psychotherapist
319 Mass Av
Arlington, MA 02174
643-1112

PLACE HOTLINE AND
COUNSELING
32 Rutland Street
Boston, MA
267-9150

TAPESTRY, Inc.
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA
661-0248

MOVERS

BOSTON TRUCKING CO.
641-1234

PRINTING

RED SUN PRESS
94 Green St
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
524-6822

REAL ESTATE
RACHAEL REALTY CO., INC.
318 Harvard St. No. 31
The Arcade Bldg.
Brookline, MA 02146
277-0230

SOUTH BAY REALTY
105 W. Newton St.
Boston, MA 02118
262-7386

ROLFING

LISA TACKLEY
Certified Rolfer
265-2264

RESUMES

AT YOUR SERVICE
634 Mass Av.
Cambridge, MA 02139
547-7117

TAXES & FINANCIAL PLANNING

MARJORIE E. POSNER
Cert. Financial Planner
33 Ashcroft St.
Jamaica Pl., MA 02130
524-7565

T-SHIRT PRINTING
COMMUNITY GRAPHIC SER-
VICES
Linda Hall, Jan Savoy,
Anni Waterflow
152 Plymouth St.
Pembroke, MA 02359
288-3106/294-1948

TRAVEL

FOREX TRAVEL
76 Arlington St.
Boston Park Plaza
482-2900

NOBSCOTT TRAVEL AND SHUT-
TLE SERVICE
795 Water Street
Framingham, MA 01701
877-2273
235-2040

WOMEN

NEW WORDS BOOKSTORE
186 Hampshire St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
876-5310

This guide provides a listing
of gay/lesbian owned, staffed,
or supportive businesses and
services. To have your busi-
ness or service listed (for only
\$100.00 per year) call 426-4469.